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SOCCER WEEKLY

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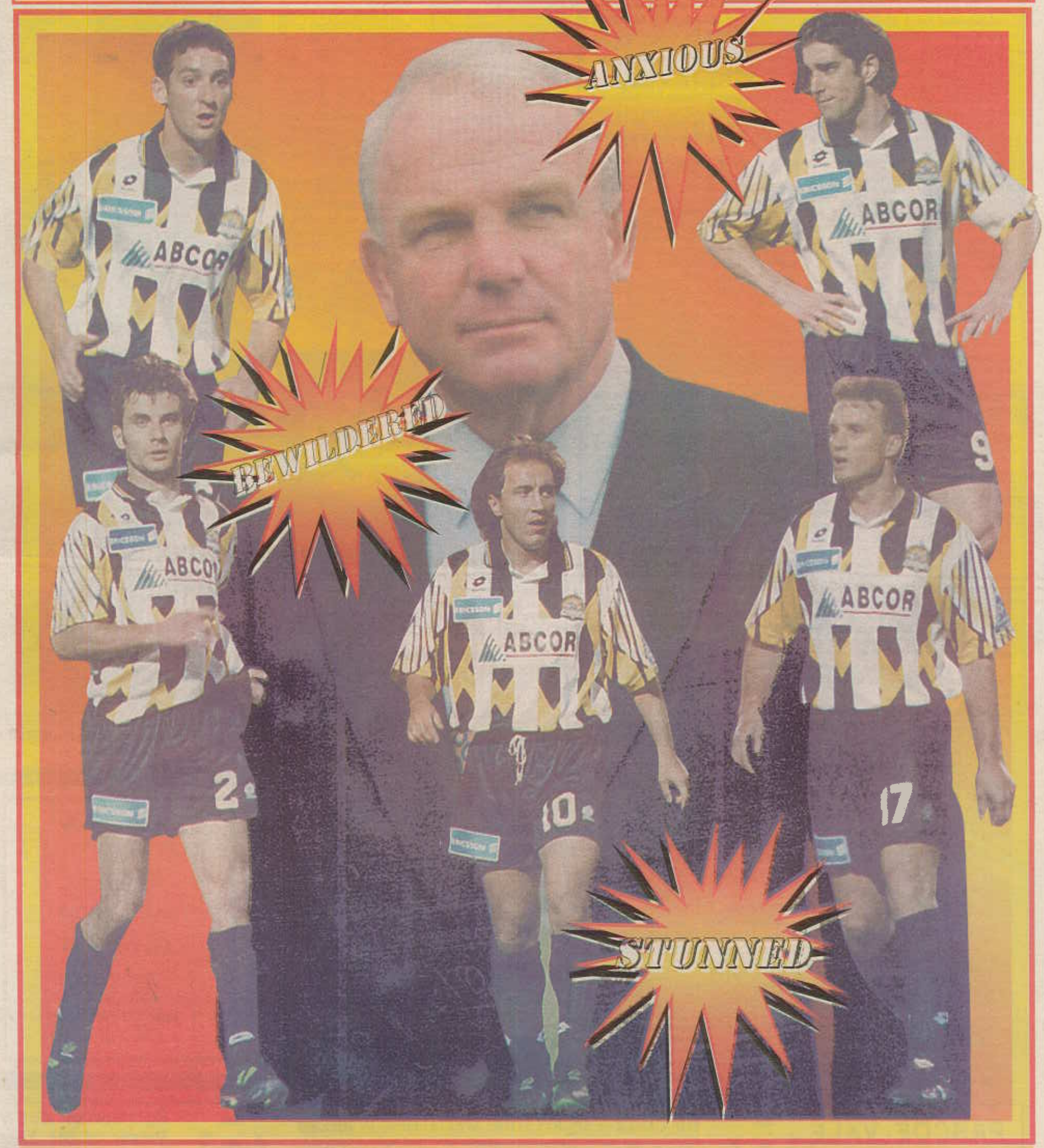

WORRIED WARRIORS WAIT

Collingwood Warriors started out with a flourish. The capture of Socceroo Goran Lozanovski from Adelaide City, Kimon Taliadoros from UTS Olympic and talented Frank Juric from near neighbours Melbourne Knights looked promising.

Being able to persuade Zoran Matic to return to the coaching ranks was considered a major coup.

They apparently had a basis of support through Heidelberg United supporters, even the name Warriors came from the north eastern club.

A number of the new club's management were from the Heidelberg camp. Cynics, through the corners of their mouths, muttered "it's a back door re-entry to the Ericsson Cup by Heidelberg."

The team's shirts combined the famous black and white of Collingwood with Heidelberg's yellow. However, the Aussie Rules board made it quite clear that, "we fully endorse and back the Soccer club but we will not be responsible for its finances," or words similar. The meaning was clear.

Because it was Collingwood, then automatically it was assumed that the name alone would attract reasonable sized crowds to Victoria Park. Regretfully this proved not to be the case.

Collingwood Football Club Limited saw a number of advantages for itself. Victoria Park would be used during the 'summer', actually late spring through early Autumn and including the summer. More people would be going though the gates so the patronage of their Club premises would be boosted. Therefore improving its profit or lessening its loss.

The crowds didn't instantly materialise surprise, surprise. After all this was a new venture. Publicity from the new Club was sparse at best. A major error. A new Club desperately needs to be introduced to the sports fans. Marketing is paramount.

A slight diversion for one moment, Carlton Soccer is being marketed and has been for some months. They deserve success and will, in all probability, get it.

Money wasn't being generated at Collingwood. Few supporters means little income. If we assume 18 players in the squad and the coach, many full time then even at a modest $600 a week, over $12,000 is required every seven days to be able to stay afloat.

Assume $10 entry fee to home games, and there is only one every two weeks, it it simple mathematics to see that minimum attendances of payers must be of the order of 4,800. The Warriors are nowhere near that figure.

What are the options?

From the players' perspective. To be paid for labour supplied and contracts written. Even though a prominent Melbourne businessman has promised $250,000 from now until the end of the season then the players would naturally want any back pay owed and even two weeks base money up front.

If, as reported, the players have actually become so called 'free agents' then some will almost certainly want away. The top line players such as Ernie Tapai, and the previously mentioned Lozanovski, Juric and Taliadoros could be on the move.

Without these players Collingwood will be a poorer outfit and far less competitive in the Ericsson Cup. Consequently any team opposing them from the time their team starts to disintegrate, will have an easier task than others they met at full strength. Surely this is unfair.

How motivated are the individual players going to be when they know that their team is on the skids?

Maybe it would be better to close Collingwood Warriors now. Forget about compensation for those teams they were to have played. Work out a method of paying the contracted players money owed. Transfer the 'star' players and use that to clear as much of the debt as possible.

To do otherwise will only prolong the agony. Precedents exist with Sydney City and one of the Newcastle ventures. It's better than having our great game suffer.

Australia to meet Brazil

By BOB BROOKS with the assistance of Soccer Australia

The draw for the inaugural FIFA Intercontinental Championships or King Fahd trophy, took place last weekend.

Australia start their campaign on Friday December 12 in Saudi Arabia against CONCACAF champions Mexico. These two countries join with Brazil as World Cup holders and host Saudi Arabia in Group A.

Sunday December 14 sees Brazil and Australia meet for the first time since the 1988 Gold Cup held in Sydney. On that occasion the Socceroos went down 0-2. Earlier the home country had shocked the Soccer Community with an emphatic 4-1 defeat of Argentina.

Two days after meeting Brazil, Saudi Arabia provide the opposition.

Group B involves the Czech Republic representing UEFA. Germany turned down the opportunity and the one million US dollars.

From South America, Uruguay take the stage.Uruguay have just suffered a shock 0-4 reversal to Ecuador in the South American World Cup qualifiers.

South Africa represent the 'dark continent' as it used to be known.

The United Arab Emirates are there as runners up to Saudi Arabia in the Asia Nations championships.

Chairman of Soccer Australia, David Hill, who was in Riyahd, capital of Saudi Arabia for the official draw held last Saturday stated, "It wil be ideal preparation in the event we qualify for the World Cup finals next year in France."

December this year will be the first time the Intercontinental Champions tournament has been held. It has only become feasible with the formation of Oceania in 1996.

Australia, at full strength, could qualify from Group A. The top two teams in each Group go through to the Semi finals.

Ronaldo: Australia could face the Player of the Year in December.

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ERICSSON CUP MATCH REPORTS

Breakers take Steel Cities Challenge

Newcastle Breakers 1 By DANE SKAFTE **Wollongong City 0**

A dazzling display of team work and ball skills by Newcastle Topper Breakers strikers, Harry James and Troy Halpin midway through the second half sent the Wollongong Wolves home with a 1-0 loss in last Friday's night clash at Birmingham Gardens.

With temperatures in the thirties for the start of the match at 7.30pm, many of the 6,154 strong crowd felt the heat along with the players and officials.

In the opening minutes of the game both sides pushed the ball around and played some very ordinary Soccer. Newcastle had their first opportunity after some build up work from Mark Wilson who knocked the ball to Liam McGuire on the right but the latter's right footed shot went wide of the post with an open goal gaping.

The Wolves made an attacking move in the 34th minute after Sasho Dimoski passed the ball from the middle to Nick Joveski who knocked a low shot but an advancing Liam Baker pushed the ball down.

Five minutes later the Breakers pushed forward attacking the Wolves goal area with several shots. None of which found the target.

James made several runs down the right wing and looked very dangerous alongside Halpin and McGuire who teamed up to create a major force.

The Wolves tried in vain to get a goal just before halftime after an attempt by Anthony Surjan went wide of the sticks. Newcastle took the lead right on the half time whistle after a sprint up the park by McGuire. His cross found Halpin who made no mistake with his side footed touch.

Wollongong's best opportunity came in the 60th minute when a drive from Michael Reda was parried away by Baker into the path of Joveski but he knocked it wide.

The Breakers continued to hold the Wolves on the ropes after more combinations by Wilson and Halpin who kept Wolves keeper Adam Broadbeck on his toes.

Newcastle have won their last three matches and are a very tough side to beat at home in front of a vocal Novocastrian crowd.

Troy Halpin: Topped off a top class performance with winning goal.

Newcastle: Baker, Pryce, Sprod, Richie, Halpin, McManus, Wilson, Sharpley, Austin, James, McGuire.
Wollongong: Broadbeck, Ceccoli, Van Egmond, Horsley, Dimovski (Bourke 81), Reda (Laybutt 70), Harlock (Chipperfield 64), Joseski, Lloyd, Surjan, Connolly.
Scorer: Newcastle: Halpin (45).
Yellow Cards: NEWCASTLE: Halpin (39). WOLLONGONG: Dimovski (35).
Crowd: 6,154.
Referee: C Diomis.
POY: 3-Halpin (NB), 2-James (NB), 1-Joseski (WW).

South recover from disastrous week

Bris. Strikers 2 By GLENN DAVIS **Sth Melbourne 3**

Brisbane referee Mark Shield was scratched off Frank Farina's Christmas card list after a controversial penalty put South Melbourne Lakers in finals contention with a thrilling 3-2 win at Suncorp Stadium on Saturday night.

Farina was unhappy with Shield's performance throughout the match which culminated in a penalty two minutes into injury time when Jason Polak was brought down in the box by substitute Andrew Brayshaw.This latest indiscretion was the fourth penalty he's given away this year.

Paul Trimboli stepped up to the mark to dispatch his second goal of the night to give the Lakers a hard fought 3-2 win with little time for a Strikers' recovery.

Farina was loathed to comment on Shield's performance in fear of risking a fine from Soccer Australia, but repeated his call for neutral referees at Strikers' home matches.

"We've been asking for it for years and we'd rather a Brisbane referee not handle home matches," Farina said.

"There's a lot of pressure on local referees, particularly as we get to see them week in and week out and they even train where we do."

The Lakers started the match at a furious pace and had the home side on the back foot with two goals in the opening eight minutes.

South Melbourne's first sting occurred on six minutes after some clever shielding by Vaughan Coveny who held up the ball long enough for Bill Damianos to support before rifling his shot into the net from 18 metres.

The Lakers appeared to catch the Strikers by surprise with a three man attacking formation, but the tactical change after the first goal reaped further rewards with their second just two minutes later.

But this time the Strikers had only themselves to blame after rangy defender Mark Battistin gave away a silly free-kick near the touch line when he deliberately fouled Michael Curcija.

David Clarkson sent his bending free kick over the head of Strikers defender Glen Gwynne where Blatsis stabbed in his first goal of the season.

The Strikers fought back bravely much through the hard work of new recruit Nick Meredith who gained his release from Sydney Olympic the previous day.

A well placed nod-down by Farina sent up Kasey Wehrman with a strike on goal, but unfortunately for the youngster it was credited as an own goal after it deflected off the leg of Nick Orlic.

The Strikers eventually got back to level at 2-all on 76 minutes when Meredith curled a corner which allowed Danny Wright to glance his header into the net.

Further controversy erupted two minutes before the penalty decision when Battistin was sent off for his second cautionable offence.

The Strikers, who have been riddled with injuries for the past few months, will suffer greatly from the loss of Battistin next week as Farina also was booked taking him over the points quota.

Con Blatsis: Put away vital goal in Lakers fine win in Sunshine State.

Brisbane Strikers: Bolton, Gwynne, Bell, Farina, Brown (Slater 63), Wright, T Cranney, Battistin, Hews, Wehrman (Brayshaw 75), Waugh (Meredith 45).
South Melbourne Lakers: Petkovic, Orlic, Blatsis, Panopoulos (Polak 75), Coveny, Trimboli, Iosifidi, Damianos, Clarkson, Curcija (Spink 84), De Amicic.
Scorers: STRIKERS: O.G. (71), Wright (76). LAKERS: Damianos (6), Blatsis (8, 90 pen).
Yellow cards: STRIKERS: Battistin (68), Wright (69), Farina (75). LAKERS: Blatsis (48).
Red cards: STRIKERS: Battistin.
Crowd: 5,983.
Referee: M-Shield.
POY: 3-Clarkson (SM) 2-Wehrman (BS) 1-Trimboli (SM).

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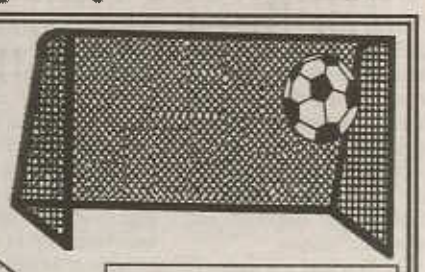

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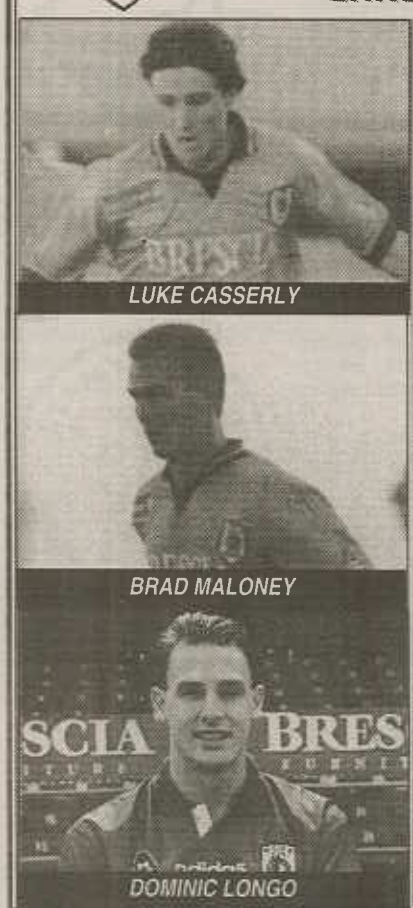

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ERICSSON CUP MATCH REPORTS

Warriors do a Lazarus

Collingwood Warriors 3 — West Adelaide 0

By DWYGHT TUFFNELL

Crisis club, Collingwood Warriors, bounced back from the brink of extinction to inflict a 3-0 defeat on finals chasers West Adelaide.

The Lazarus like rise from the Club's near 'death bed' delighted their supporters and stunned the visitors.

The Warriors put their off field problems behind them and comfortably beat the Sharks to register just their second home win of the season.

"I was saying during the week that the events of the last week have served to galvanise the boys as a team, and today was nothing short of a wonderful team performance," said skipper Kimon Taliadoros.

"It was an extraordinary effort, I am not sure how the players were able to lift themselves mentally.

"We felt we had an obligation to the people who turned up today, particularly in view of the last week and it was pleasure to present them with a result like that.

"After today we've shown that when sufficiently motivated we're more than capable of beating the teams competing for the finals."

Taliadoros silenced some of his critics with two goals in the 32nd and 54th minutes.

"It's been a few weeks since I scored a goal and my own form has been a little disappointing."

But it was the visitors who threatened early with Alex Castro and Pablo Cardozo coming close.

Cardozo in particular, should have done better with his opportunity and the Sharks were made to pay when Taliadoros scored from the next attack.

A through ball from Andy Vlahos released Taliadoros but he seemed to be stopped in his tracks by Sharks 'keeper Michael Harkness.

Taliadoros somehow got the ball out of the grasp of Harkness and knocked it into the empty net.

Ernie Tapai scored his first goal for the season, in first half stoppage time, with a 25 metre drive that went through the hands of the unfortunate Harkness.

Taliadoros then made sure of the three points with his second goal nine minutes into the second half from a simple set piece.

Goran Lozanovski curled over a free kick for Taliadoros to head past Harkness on his near post.

Tapai nearly beat Harkness again with a similar strike to that of his first goal, in the 67th minute.

The win was the fourth of the year for the Warriors. It included the double over West Adelaide and also a double over Melbourne Knights.

The attendance again, was disappointing. Only around 2,000 people were there to witness arguably the Warriors best performance this season.

"Although the situation is a long way from being resolved, the fact is the players have proven their professionalism and applied themselves as such today," Taliadoros said.

Taliadoros said there has been no problem with the players being paid but agreements between the players and club still have to be sorted out.

"The only matter that needs to be resolved is the issue of settling the player contracts in view of the events of last weekend.

"That's a matter of ongoing negotiations between the Players Association, the Warriors and Soccer Australia."

Warriors: Juric, Vrkic, Davidson, Della Rocca, Catalano, Lozanovski, Cerracchio (MacNicol 63), Tapai, Vlahos, Taliadoros, Di Iorio.

Sharks: Harkness, Hooker, Castro (Alagich 60), Aloisi, Cardozo, Milosevic, Kokkinopilitis, Tibaldi, Borghetto, Tsekinis, Pezos.

Scorers: Warriors: Taliadoros (32, 54), Tapai (45).
Yellow Cards: WARRIORS: Tapai (16), Vrkic (30), Taliadoros (40). SHARKS: Castro (53), Aloisi (52), Alagich (90).
Referee: J Markovski.
Crowd: 2,000.
Votes: 3-Tapai (CW), 2-Lozanovski (CW), 1-Catalano (CW).

Kimon Taliadoros: Scored two goals for Collingwood

Cosmos stun visitors

Canberra Cosmos 4 — Perth Glory 1

By GRAHAM COOKE

Canberra Cosmos coach Mike Lyons was disappointed his team did not score eight and Perth Glory boss Gary Marocchi said he had some serious thinking to do after one of the shock results of the Ericsson Cup season.

Bottom placed Cosmos beat Glory 4-1 at Bruce Stadium tonight and Marocchi said the home side thoroughly deserved the win.

"I was very disappointed with our performance and I have no excuses for it," he said.

For Lyons, celebrating what was only Canberra's second win of the season, the result was especially gratifying.

"Michael Garcia had a couple of chances and Tony Lemezina missed one - and that was just in the second half," he said. And he was full of praise for debut-making former Socceroo John Markovski, the scorer of one of the goals. "He was our leader tonight," Lyons said.

Vince Matassa, in the Perth goal, looked out of touch, and in the ninth minute he misjudged a speculative lob from Rodrigo Moreno. The dipping ball went over Matassa's head and struck the cross bar, rebounding to the unmarked Norman Kelly who calmly drove home his sixth goal of the season.

Three minutes before halftime the Glory got an equaliser they hardly deserved. Paul Strudwick's free kick on the edge of the area rebounded off the Cosmos wall to Bobby Despotovski who scored from close range.

Cosmos regained the lead within five minutes of the interval, Lachlan Armstrong getting in behind the defence to score.

Sixty seconds later Armstrong was spreadeagled on the turf and Despotovski, who had apparently head-butted him was being given his marching orders by referee Eugene Brazzale.

Dale Wingell squandered what was probably the last chance to get the 10-man Glory back into the game, when his header went straight at goalkeeper Danny Milosevic, then Paul Dee, with the most delicate of headers scored for Cosmos to put the result beyond doubt.

But there was one more moment for the Bruce Stadium crowd to savour.

With 15 minutes to go Markovski set the seal on the game positioning himself perfectly to take a pass from Garcia following a corner and scoring Canberra's fourth.

Canberra: Milosevic: Dee, Wade (Grella), Garcia, Kelly, Armstrong, Markovski (Lemezina 78), Koch, Mazis, Sorras, Moreno.

Perth Glory: Matassa: C.Naven (Mackenzie 72), Wilkinson, Buljubasic, G.Naven, Miller (M. Wingell), McVittie, Strudwick, Despotovski, Kalogaracos, D. Wingell.

Scorers: COSMOS: Kelly (9), Armstrong (50), Dee (66) GLORY: Despotovski (42)
Referee: E.Brazzale
Crowd: 2,000
POY: 3-Garcia (CC) 2-Dee (CC) 1-Kelly (CC)

Mike Lyons: Saw his team double their points totals in fine style.

Falcons frustrated by Olympic

Gippsland 1 — UTS Olympic 1

Gippsland Falcons and UTS Olympic fought a 1-1 draw in their Ericsson Cup encounter at Falcons Park on Saturday night.

A 51st minute goal by striker Alex Djuric, who returned to Gippsland after a three-week absence for training with a Chinese first division side, gave the home side the lead.

The celebrations, however, were short-lived, as five minutes later striker Norman Tome equalised for the Sydney team.

Olympic were coming from an "administrative" win due to the Collingwood Warriors fiasco of last week. With their scheduled match cancelled the points were awarded to the Sydney side.

The Gippslanders, on the other hand, have not enjoyed victory since they beat Brisbane Strikers in round 12. The match could have been theirs but they squandered many opportunities particularly in the later stages.

The Falcons mounted a three-pronged attack with Esala Masi, Djuric and veteran Billy Wright, who was playing his final game with the club prior to taking a coaching position with metropolitan league side South Dandenong.

The only real chance in the first half came at the 26th minute when a long shot from a Falcons' player wide on the right was stopped and dropped by Olympic keeper Tony Franken. Wright pounced on the loose ball but sent it wide.

In the second half the tempo picked up with Falcons the stronger.

Djuric's goal was the result of a well-placed header from a Mark Foy cross.

The equaliser came from the foot of Norman Tome, who fired in a magnificent volley from 25 metres following a pass from Walter Ardone.

Striker Joe Tricario, who replaced Wright in the 54th minute, had the chance to steal the points for the home side on four occasions but each went begging.

Gippsland Falcons: Kourtis, Marcina, Stergiopoulos, Foy, Krncevic (Osman 77), Duric, Masi, Wright (Tricarico 49), Sekulic, Gotis, Mitroulas (Palamaras 77).

UTS Olympic: Franken, Barrett, Ciantar, Baillie, Tsekenis, Tome, Ardone, Trajanovski, Augerinos (Zelic 87), Blagojevic, Saad.

Scorers: Falcons: Duric (51). Olympic: Tome (56).
Yellow cards: FALCONS: Marcina (30). OLYMPIC: Saad (39).
Referee: G Leverton.
Crowd: 2,323.
POY: 3-Tsekenis (UO), 2-Sekulic (GF), 1-Kourtis (GF)

Alex Duric: Returned from China adventure to clinch Falcons lone goal.

ERICSSON CUP MATCH REPORTS

Marconi down 'crippled' leaders

Sydney United 1 — Marconi 3

By JOHN ECONOMOS

Marcon in their spectacular away clash with League leaders Sydney United at Parramatta Stadium last Sunday night, ultimately struggled to run out 3-1 winners in a match that yielded not only four goals, but saw an active Sydney referee Simon Micallef dish out no less than a dozen cards, three of which unfortunately were coloured red.

Within the first thirty minutes Mark Babic and Paul Bilokapic were off for United. With just a minute left of play Marconi's left wingback Luke Casserly received his marching orders.

It was always going to be a battle royale local derby as action aplenty exploded within the first 30 minutes. During this period both sides scored a goal apiece, but the Pumas had two players sent off, five minutes apart.

It was a match that saw the losers, (United), and not Marconi, star.

A magnificent, yet depleted, Sydney United, displayed unyielding steel character refusing to go on the back foot as they launched raid after raid on Marconi and gallantly battled the last hour with just eight field players.

In fact it was left to Marconi's heroic captain Andy Harper to get his disappointing side out of jail. 'Harps' not only set up the first goal but also scored the last two himself to grab the points for his side.

The first 'red' saw United's skipper and central marker Mark Babic sent off in the 25th minute as he cut down his Marconi opponent and skipper Harper near the touchline just over the halfway mark.

If that wasn't a bad enough set back for United, more followed just five minutes later as fiery central midfielder Paul Bilokapic was also marched for a foul on Marconi's pacey striker Sean Babic. But in this case Bilokapic had scored a second yellow having first been booked 10 minutes earlier.

Harper crossed infield from the right touchline looking for fellow striker, Sean Babic. But Harper's cross was fumbled by United's Mark Rudan who was struggling from a nasty ankle injury following a heavy tackle inflicted earlier. Babic swooped onto the loose ball to streak away and slam just inside the base of the post.

Sixty seconds later United 'balanced the books' as Kresimir Marusic's cross from the flank was headed down by Rudan for marksman David ('Lawman') Zdrilic to knock in from close range. Rudan immediately hobbled off and was replaced by veteran stopper Velimir Kupresak who luckily had flown back from Melbourne after attending a family wedding

Raid after raid upfield brought United little joy. With a minute left of the first session United again came and surely it seemed they'd hit the lead.

Highly skilled striker Ante Milicic shook off his marker, Robbie Stanton raced up the left touchline with midfielder Ante Moric screaming across to the back stick. Milicic crossed perfectly and Moric almost from point blank range, but at top speed, glanced his header millimetres wide of the right post..

A minute into the second session Marconi's midfielder Brad Maloney failed narrowly with a great drive from outside the box and in the 52nd minute United's towering World Cup goalkeeper Zeljko Kalac made a most courageous save on his first post to deny international Craig Foster.

But United recoiled again and in the 64th minute young left wingback Jason Culina brilliantly set up Zdrilic who barely shaved the right post.

From here on with United having run themselves into the ground, Harper stepped in and took ultimate full control.

Scouting out wide on the right 'Harps' cracked in two exploding drives (the first a left footer, the second with his right boot), for his brace of goals after meeting successive crosses both from the left fired in by midfielders Vlado Zoric in the 68th and Luke Casserly in the 80th minutes to put a finality to United's unquestionable and magnificent heroic display.

Marconi's relieved Manfred Schaefer reflected, "The second half we came back into the match even though I admit our goalkeeper was still saving a lot for us, but when we eventually scored we started to look good."

A very quiet United boss Branko Culina would only state, "I'm very proud of all my players as we were very much in the game right through till that third goal killed us off."

Sydney United: Kalac: Babic, Enes, Rudan (Kupresak 17): Trajkovsi, Bilokapic, Moric (Genc 63), J.Culina: Zdrilic, Marusic, Milicic (Krsiovic 86).

Marconi: Fogliacomi: Holst, Bingley, Stanton: Robertson, Foster (Hristodoulou 63), Maloney, Zoric, Casserly: S.Babic (Bosevski 75), Harper.

Scorers: Marconi: S.Babic (16), Harper (68, 80). United: Zdrilic (17).

Yellow Cards: MARCONI: Foster (7), Casserly (24), Holst (36), S.Babic (44). UNITED: Bilokapic (20), Moric (57), Milicic (85).

Red Cards: UNITED: M.Babic (25), Bilokapic (30). MARCONI: Casserly (89).

Referee: S.Micallef.

Crowd: 11,614.

P.O.Y.: 3-Kalac (SU) 2-Milicic (SU), 1-Harper (MF).

Andy Harper: The Stalliions skipper put an end to United's valiant fight with two goals.

Zebras consolidate third spot

Adelaide City 1 — Melbourne Knights 0

Adelaide City dented Melbourne Knights hopes of defending their Ericsson Cup crown with a polished 1-0 win at Hindmarsh Stadium on Sunday.

Former Olyroo Brad Hassell netted his fifth goal of the season in the 35th minute to extend City's unbeaten sequence to 10 matches.

The Knights slumped to 10th on the ladder and are now seven points shy of a top six spot with eight rounds to play.

The reigning champs pressed City in patches but the Zebras were always dangerous on the counter attack and gave Knights goalkeeper Joe Didulica plenty of chances to shine.

Didulica started the heroics in the first minute when he advanced and blocked a shot from City striker Michael Brooks, who had been released by Hassell.

Knights striker Ice Kutlesovski should have opened the scoring in the 19th minute when picked out by captain Andrew Marth but snapped wide.

Then, Tom Pondeljak set up Adrian Cervinski in the 20th minute and his fierce drive was parried for a corner by City keeper Jason Petkovic.

The Socceroo custodian also had to save a second Cervinski drive a minute later from the resultant corner.

With City's defence hardening from that point, midfielders Dino Mennillo and Hassell tested the Knights with their speed and precision passing.

In the 35th minute Mennillo produced a slick pass to Hassell, who swivelled and chipped coolly over Didulica's advancing frame to score what turned out to be the only goal of the game.

Marth almost beat Petkovic in the 49th minute with a deflected 20 metre shot but the keeper managed to change direction and palm away the ball.

The Knights' chances sank a little when central defender David Cervinski limped off in the 51st minute and Marth was sent back to deputise.

Didulica held a fierce drive from City defender Bradley Armour in the 58th minute and also managed to block a drive from John Gibson in the dying seconds.

City's Socceroo defensive pair Milan Ivanovic and Alex Tobin were able to keep the shackles on Kutlesovski and substitute Joe Caleta in the final stages.

Jason Petkovic: Saved his team on a number of occassions.

Adelaide City: Petkovic, Armour, Yates, Ivanovic, Tobin, Hassell (66), Mennillo, Gibson, Brooks (Sabljak 82), Brazzale, Salapasidis (Dodd 75).

Melbourne Knights: Didulica, Nastevski (Bacak 65), Cervinski d (Caleta 51), Marth, Tasevski, Kutlesovski, Vojtek (Daak 83), Pondeljak T, Kovacevic, Banini, Cervinski A.

Scorer: Hassell (35).

Yellow Cards: KNIGHTS: Nastevski (17), Banini (30).

Referee: G Connolly.

Crowd: 4294.

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2-1	8/1	2-2	14/1	1-2	8/1	H-A	22/1
3-0	25/1	3-3	50/1	0-3	25/1	D-H	9/2
3-1	22/1			1-3	22/1	D-D	7/2
3-2	25/1			2-3	25/1	D-A	9/2
4-0	66/1			0-4	66/1	A-H	22/1
4-1	66/1			1-4	66/1	A-D	14/1
4-2	66/1			2-4	66/1	A-A	7/2

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Accuracy questioned

Dear Sir,

In response to Mr Melor's letter in ABSW of 11/12/97, I have the following comments to make.

1. It is a well known fact that when making comparisons you compare "apples to apples, not apples with oranges." In other words, comparing soccer crowds to rugby league or Australian football crowds is not meaningful. You have to compare crowds between various soccer clubs.

2. Stating that comparing crowds with a support base or city size is misleading, misses the point. Of course we know that not all larger cities AUTOMATICALLY get bigger crowds, however I was stating the obvious fact that Sydney is underachieving. A population catchment area has to be a yardstick to judge real and potential crowds.

3. Has Mr Melor ever attended a Canberra Cosmos match? What is his basis for being sceptical about crowd figures? If you have attended a match and don't believe the figure to be accurate then you have a right to an opinion, as Chris Hogden has in a letter published about Brisbane in the same issue. You cannot compare Cosmos crowds with the crowds of the Canberra Raiders. Unlike the Cosmos, the Raiders are given the red carpet treatment by the local print media and have a vast advertising budget.

4. Canberra has been at the bottom of the table all season. I believe that any other Ericsson Cup club which has a poor record on the field would also have modest crowds. If Canberra was in the top six it would be getting crowds of about 5-7000.

5. Re crowd figures; I attended the recent Marconi v Canberra Cosmos match of February 2. where the official crowd figure was 4,279. However, I believe it was no more than about 3,000. What control does soccer Australia have over obtaining accurate crowd figures from clubs?

6. Mr Melor may be a secret supporter of Sydney United. For the record, Sydney United 'fans' have turned up at Canberra Cosmos games in the last two years and have thrown flares, set fire to seats, intimidated families and fought with police. Sydney United has a fine soccer team but it is about time they got rid of the 'lunatic fringe' of supporters. With fans that barrack for 'Croatia', new Sydney United president John Hewson has a Herculean task in convincing non Croatians to support Sydney United.

7. There is nothing wrong with having ethnic teams in the Ericsson cup. However, even their officials realise that they need to broaden their supporter base. Unfortunately, I am sceptical of their chances of success in this endeavour. (How many iess fans would Perth draw if their team was Greek, Italian or Croatian roots?)

8. Most 'latent supporters', such as Steven Anderson (ABSW 11/12/97) have no affinity with the current Sydney teams. I am aware that some Sydney non ethnic clubs have failed in the past, howeverm, with sound planning I believe that a Sydney non ethnic club can attract a swathe of converts where the current clubs cannot.

Peter Kunz,
CHIFLEY ACT.

Editors Note: Crowd figures can always be questioned unless a ground is full — something unlikely at Bruce Stadium for a Canberra Soccer team.

Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in

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Short letters of about 400 words will be given preference in this column.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper

One big con trick?

Dear Sir,

What will Soccer Australia do about the Collingwood (sorry, Heidelberg) fiasco? It is now apparent that it was one big con trick.

Soccer Australia, Collingwood FC the soccer public and, unfortunately the players who thought they were part of a brave new venture were sucked in.

This disaster can do nothing but harm to the future of soccer. How will any other footy club on rugby league club react to overtures from soccer to go into joint ventures — I'll bet they'll run a mile. the ramifications will be felt for a long time to come regardless of Mr Dardalis' generosity.

Soccer Australia must hold a full enquiry into this mess and those responsible should be punished accordingly. They should be banned from the game forever.

I have been to most of Collingwood's Melbourne games, but amidst the euphoria of the 15,000 crowd at the first game I had my doubts about the future of the club. chants of "Alexandros!" were hardly likely to encourage Collingwood FC members or neutrals to return.

Jim Atkinson,
ROSANNA EAST VIC.

Media mogul needed

A lot has been said and written about the need for a non ethnic team or teams in both Sydney and Melbourne, and even Adelaide.

Teams that will represent those cities including all nationalities and mainstream Anglo Aussies as well, not just for Greeks, Croatians and Italians.

With the hugely successful Perth Glory side in its first year, you don't need to be a Rhodes scholar to see what needs to be done. However Sydney and Melbourne are a different proposition to Perth because of their huge size, and long history of ethnic rivalry dating back to the fifties.

It won't be easy getting all of them and their offspring to follow one team only. After all migrants are the heart and soul of the game by their very support that they give their team. But we must look to the future not the past, simply because you don't have a hundred teams for every nationality to support separately. Just like you can't expect people from Serb or Bosnian Muslim background to support Sydney United with Croatian flags flying in front of their eyes nor Turkish migrants to support UTS or South Melbourne with their Greek flags.

So the obvious answer is to create a new side with no ethnic baggage to any one particular country only to that city and ALL its people.

The $64 million question is how can it be done and succeed as well. One answer I feel is to get a wealthy media mogul, like Kerry Packer or Rupert Murdock interested for only 10% of the amount of money spent on Rugby League in the past two years not to mention the next four or five as well. You could successfully create a one city team in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide by buying big name players from Europe as well as our ex-pats playing overseas.

Less than $64 million is needed not the $600 odd million that has been committed to 'Thugby' sorry I mean Rugby League. It doesn't have to be Packer or Murdock but maybe the owner of channel 10 or 7 or perhaps Fairfax newspapers.

There has to be a multi-millionaire out there somewhere who has a passion for the game to invest their money in a sleeping giant that is ready to explode on the local scene. I know if I had 40 to 50 million dollars to spare what I would be doing!

Dominic Scullino,
HELENSVALE, QLD.

Editors Note: Two million a year is all that is needed to be fully professional, the World Game needs fewer players than league.

Soccer's dead in Victoria

Dear Sir,

Even with the collapse of the Collingwood Warriors soccer club, the desperately poor state of Victorian Soccer is still very much hidden. While the half-hearted attempt by Collingwood to play Soccer has been exposed as a stunt to simply to beat enemies Carlton into the competition, the state of Victorian club Soccer is in tatters with the Melbourne Knights and Gippsland Falcons only being saved from the chop due to the Warriors exit. The Falcons play in a virtually empty stadium averaging less than 2,000 a game while the Knights have no hope in broadening the supporter base playing in front of the same meagre 3,000 supporters whether they be top of the league or bottom. The fact is only Melbourne local derbies inflate the Knights crowds to anywhere near the 4,000 mark they claim is adequate to field a team in the league.

Support for the Socceroos is non-existent in the state. Only 9,000 people could be bothered to turn up to Olympic Park in 1993 when Australia's "Dream Team" played NZ in the vital world cup qualifier. Games since have attracted even less as was the case against Japan last year when fewer than 4,000 attended. Only the so-called Greek derby seems to attract a crowd but few in the crowd must see fit to turn up to watch our national team.

The fact is that Victorian teams have been consistenly bottom of crowd average figures since about 1991 where we've seen Preston & Heidelberg disappear and Brunswick make a farcial switch to the Western Oval (which lasted 3 weeks) to broaden their spectator base. With the current crowds attending Victorian clubs, I doubt there were more than 20,000 Soccer followers left in the whole state.

It is for this reason that the entry of Carlton is so important. The success of Carlton is David Hill's biggest challenge as if it fails so might all his ambitions. Carlton represents everything Mr Hill and most of us want for Australian Soccer, professionalism, a non-ethnically aligned team that is backed by a successful club attracting consistently large crowds. Failure at Carlton could end Mr Hill's ambition of not only reviving terminally ill Victoria Soccer but also the chance to attract other sporting codes (who would abandon the idea) to build teams for all Australians regardless of backgrounds for Sydney and Adelaide.

While Collingwood represents the failure of experient 1 for Victoria, if Carlton succeeds then surely in the very near future they will see a long overdue team from Geelong (Australia's 9th largest city) and a team based at the new Docklands Std which may also be an Aussie Rules club such as Essendon.

However, failure for Carlton will mean few new people will be attracted to Soccer in Victoria and it will increase the calls to strip Melbourne of Olympic Soccer in favour of Perth, as it could be quite embarrassing when few spectators turn up to Melbourne in 2000.

Steven Anderson,
BARDWELL PARK,
NSW.

What Wog Game?

How it can be explained:

Baker, Price, Sprod, Thomas, Zane, Halpin, McManus, Wilson, Austin, McGuire, James?

You are right! It is the Newcastle Breakers' line-up from the match against Perth Glory, weekend of February 15/16. But that isn't the explanation sought. What is needed is an explanation for the absence of names like Vukmirovic, Matassa and Kalogeracos who took the field for Glory.

Whatever it is, we may speculate any number of reasons.

Surely there is some good reason which, frankly, eludes me.

Many Australians like to refer to the World Game as The Wog Game. Next time you hear a remark like that have a copy of the Breakers line-up in your pocket!

Alan Tredinnick,
NEW LAMBTON, NSW.

Behaviour disgusting

Dear Sir,

After winning a Grand Final the Knights fans invaded the park and let off flares. As a result the Knights got a $200,000 bond and almost got the flick from the league.

Earlier this year at the Lakers/Collingwood game flares were thrown on the pitch — no action from the SA bosses.

Last weekend, bottles and other rubbish was thrown at a linesman, Kuzmanovic's behaviour was disgraceful, and then the Adelaide bus was stoned. What will the powers do now? Is there one law for the Knights and one for others? Let's hope the soccer rulers take serious action on this matter.

It should not be too hard to identify the culprits as the same mob of idiots gather at the same place, game after game at Bob Jane, behaving in the same disgusting manner which soccer can do without.

Bob Jane — never again!

A. Ambrose,
Address NFP

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AROUND THE CLUBS

W.A. GIVEN HINT

By RICHARD KRIEDER

Soccer Australia Chairman, David Hill gave Perth soccer fans the clearest hint yet of a new Soccer complex, when he dropped into town recently with Socceroo Coach, Terry Venables.

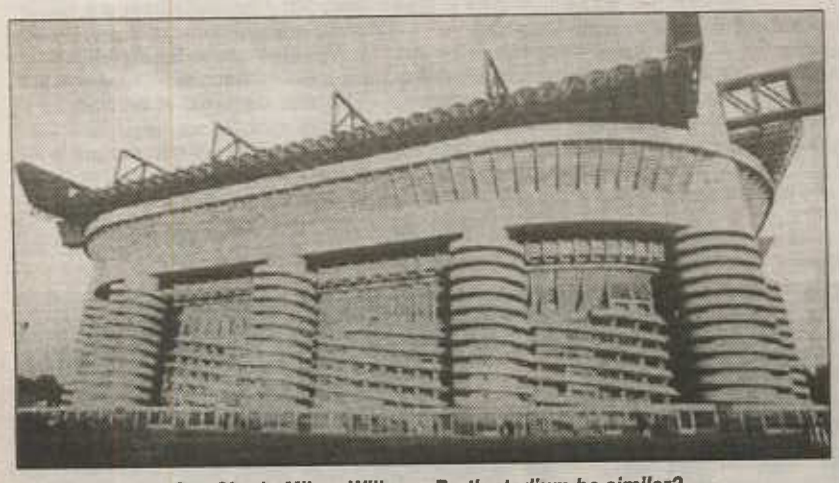
Hill announced that he has been having talks with the WA State government, who told him they intend on making a $40 million financial allocation towards a multiple sporting complex that will be home to Soccer.

"What the other sports are is still undecided," said Hill, although Rugby is most likely to be one of them.

Meanwhile, Venables was visually impressed with the Glory set up at Perth Oval, and also got to take a final look at Socceroo hopefuls Bobby Despotovski and Vinko Buljubasic before returning to London.

"I am aware of Bobby and Vinko, but I am also aware of a few others," said Venables who is expecting to be back in Australia in May.

Venables, who is chairman of Portsmouth, also managed to catch up with former Chelsea striker and Portsmouth chairman Ron Tindall during his lightening visit to the West.



San Siro in Milan: Will new Perth stadium be similar?

YOUTH HERO SEEKS FURTHER GLORY

After two years in England with Nottingham Forest, former Young Socceroo Anthony Carbone has emerged from a six month rest to join Perth Glory on loan from local club Sorrento.

The talented 22 year old midfielder, who recently returned from trials with Malaysian club Negri Sembilan, will first play with Sorrento in the Online/Casico Night Series to regain match fitness, before making a serious challenge into the highly competitive Glory squad.

Carbone was released from Forest last October after a then record $200,000 transfer deal with former club Perth Italia.

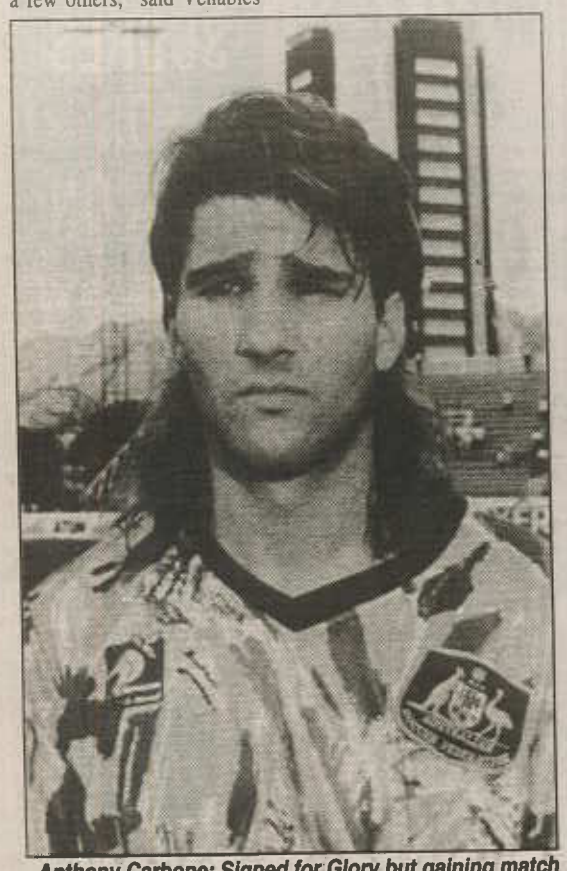
He became the first player to score a sudden-death goal in a FIFA competition when he headed home Australia's winning goal against Uruguay in a quarter-final of the World Youth Championship in 1993.

Explosive Sydney United striker Ante Milicic, who played alongside Carbone in the youth tournament, has reportedly expressed interest in wearing the purple and orange of Perth Glory.

Milicic, who will be out of contract at the end of the current season, played for Glory in a friendly against Italian Serie A giants, Sampdoria last May, but accepted an offer with the Sydney club instead, which included a pre-season playing trip to Croatia.

West Adelaide striker Jim Tsekinis, who netted the equaliser against Perth the other week, is another headliner Glory are looking at, although it is believed he is keen to play in Greece.

Meanwhile, the popularity of Perth Glory has now spread overseas, where in Singapore it is believed the logo is being pirated, and unlicensed tops have been made in India.



Anthony Carbone: Signed for Glory but gaining match fitness with Sorrento.

SOCCER CHIEF QUITS

The President of Soccer West Coast, Nick MacCallum, has resigned from the position after 18 months in the chair. The former state striker claims the pressure of his sportswear business is preventing him from performing the presidential duties efficiently, although it is rumoured he has applied for one of the independent positions on the Soccer Administration of WA board, of which he assisted in its creation in 1991. Vice-president Tony Cowan will take over as the acting SWC President.

CONNOLLY MAKES HIS MARK

By PHIL MURPHY

Jason Connolly likes it in Wollongong so much he wants to live there.

The former Blacktown City defender signed with Wollongong City at the start of the season and is back in action after a lengthy spell on the sidelines with a hamstring injury.

It was a career he thought had eluded him after spending a season in the NSL, before Blacktown were relegated back to the State league.

He said he made his national league debut against South Melbourne at Middle Park but Blacktown struggled all season and were eventually relegated.

"After that taste of the big time I was always keen to have another go," Connolly said.

"When I finally received another chance from Wollongong I was about to head over to Ireland to trial with Shamrock Rovers.

"I received a phone call from Nick Theodorakopoulos out of the blue.

"I told him I was going overseas but came back five weeks later and went straight to Brandon Park for my first training session."

Connolly said he had never met the Wolves coach but his assistant coach Ron Corry was at Blacktown when he was there.

"I was lucky to have won two State league championships and a Grand Final while at Blacktown and I think Ron might have mentioned by name to Nick," the defender said.

"Anyway, it has worked out really well for me and I am enjoying my football in Wollongong.

"I think I will look around for a place to live on the Illawarra next season. Not having to travel from Sydney three nights a week would make life easier.

"The players at Wollongong are a great bunch and I was able to settle in really well.

"There are some very tough games coming up and we have to keep getting points to finish in the top six."

CAPABLE OF TOP 6

Connolly said he believed the side was capable of making the playoffs and once you are there anything might happen.

When he was out injured Connolly spent frustrating evenings in the grandstand while the versatile Richard Lloyd took over at sweeper, did exceptionally well.

Connolly was back in action when the Wolves played a scoreless draw away to Adelaide City. He came off the bench in the second half and did well in a defensive midfield role.

Theodorakopoulos has plenty of defenders to choose from as Steve Laybutt is also back in action after a long-term injury and a suspension after he was sent off in a youth league match.

Regular markers Gary van Egmond and Alvin Ceccoli have been playing consistently well but there is always the option of using Ceccoli wide on the left. He filled that role perfectly last season.

Laybutt is an outstanding prospect as a marker after spending two years at the Australian Institute of Sport.

Jason Connolly (right): Settled in very well with his new team.

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AROUND THE GAME

SLATER MISSES OUT FOR SOTON

English Premier League struggler Southampton has withdrawn midfielder Robbie Slater from next week's Australian training camp being held in England.

Overseas based Australians will work for the first time with new Socceroo coach Terry Venables during the three day get together.

Southampton, one off the bottom of the ladder and facing big losses if relegated after recently joining the share market, has a rescheduled home match tomorrow, Wednesday, against high flying Wimbledon.

Robbie Slater: His Club needs him, so Venables must wait.

Slater was hopeful of at least attending yesterday (Monday), when the Aussies check-in to a hotel just across the road from Scribes West, the London club owned by Venables.

Slater commented, "It's very important for me to meet the new coach and be part of this squad, so I hope Graeme will let me travel up for the day."

VIDMAR, SCHWARZER AND VAN BLERK MOVE ON

Australian players continue to hit the big time in British soccer with Glasgow Rangers last week signing defender, Tony Vidmar and goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer on his way to Middlesbrough. Additionally Jason Van Blerk moved up a notch from London club, Millwall to First Division Manchester City in the north west of England.

Scottish champions Rangers swooped on former Adelaide City star Vidmar on the recommendation of Eddie Thomson.

Vidmar will join Paul Gascoigne's club next season on a free transfer after he completes his present term with Dutch side, NAC Breda.

The 27-year-old, who will link up with fellow Australian international Craig Moore on the staff at Ibrox, told a news conference in Glasgow: "I am delighted to be coming here. Really it was the name of the club Glasgow Rangers which clinched it for me."

Vidmar follows in the footsteps of David Mitchell who had a spell at Ibrox. They both moved overseas from Adelaide City.

Schwarzer's bid to win the No.1 Socceroo spot from Mark Bosnich could be boosted by a $3 million move to Boro in England's Premier League.

The 24-year-old has won rave reviews since joining first division Bradford City from German League club Kaiserslautern, in the northern Autumn, last year.

Boro manager Bryan Robson won the battle for Schwarzer's signature as Joe Royle from Everton was also in the hunt. Everton in fact signed Paul Gerrard the Oldham custodian.

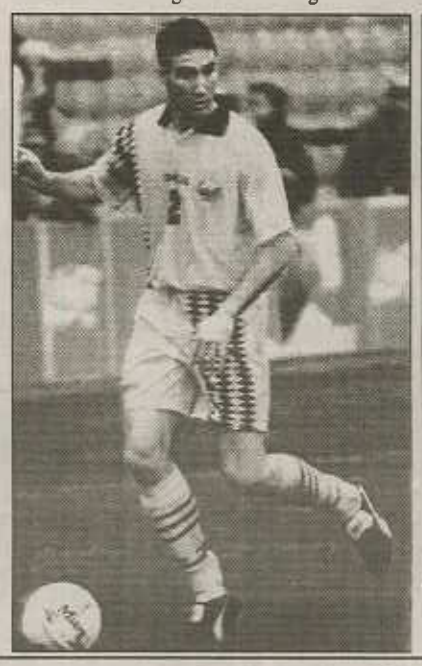
The move to the high profile north eastern club would enhance the 196cm Schwarzer's prospects of adding to his six Australian caps.

Schwarzer will be battling to help his side beat Stockport in the FA Cup sixth round as well as hoping they can lift from the foot of the table.

The stature of former England manager Venables has certainly done no harm for some 100 Australian players with British and European clubs.

Van Blerk, an overlapping full back, is the son of former APIA winger, Cliff. The latter was a star of the NSW First Division in the 60s and 70s.

Young Van Blerk played with Blacktown City and Leichhardt Tigers when those two clubs were in the NSL.



L-R Aussies on the move : Tony Vidmar, Mark Schwarzer, Jason Van Blerk.

United stars visit kids

By Bob Brooks

Sydney United players, along with coach Branko Culina, visited the New Children's Hospital at Westmead last Wednesday.

This Hospital opened last year in the City of Parramatta. It is on the same campus as Westmead Hospital which was built to cater for the growing population in Sydney's North West.

The children had an opportunity to meet these stars, some of whom are little older than the teenage patients.

Amongst the hospital visitors were current Australian internationals goalkeeper Zeljko Kalac, Mark Babic, Robert Enes, David Zdrilic and Ante Milicic.

On Sunday the Pumas played just across the old Park at Parramatta Stadium against Marconi.

These two moves are all part of the innovations taking place in the United camp. The club are attempting to broaden their supporter base from their origins. They certainly have a good name for it – Sydney United.

Zeljko Kalac: Took his giant frame to The New Children's Hospital In Sydney's west.

PRIVATE FALCONS

By Dwyght Tuffnell

Gippsland Falcons are confident of keeping their place in the Ericsson Cup for the 1997-98 season.

Despite being written off by just about everyone, the Falcons are going to go private and hope to follow the season's big success story, Perth Glory.

The Falcons were tipped to make way for the new Carlton Soccer Club, who enter the league next season.

"Financially, the club will be a lot better off, which is the aim," says Falcons Administration Manager, Rolf Lamb.

Lamb says that it will all be happening in the near future and there will be a meeting for the members' tonight (February 25).

"You only have to look at how Perth are going to see what a success it could be."

The Falcons will have a members' equity, although the bulk of the club will be privatised.

WARRIORS CONTINUING

By Dwyght Tuffnell

Collingwood Warriors will stick out the rest of the Ericsson Cup season after being rescued last weekend by millionaire businessman, Jack Dardalis.

Dardalis now the Club chairman, has pledged $250,000 of his own money to keep the Warriors going for the rest of the season.

Collingwood FC will not be involved with the Warriors from the end of the season but will continue to provide playing, administration and training facilities.

The players' union is trying to get the players released from the Club as the Union believes that the Warriors players are uncontracted free agents and should be allowed to move.

The players claims will be sorted out over the next week but they will continue to play and train in the meantime.

Commitment to the club from the players is something that has already been questioned and that of the already small support that the Warriors currently have.

Collingwood has home games against Canberra, Newcastle, Sydney United and Brisbane remaining.

SOUTHS SEEK CULPRITS

By Dwyght Tuffnell

Soccer Australia has launched an inquiry relating to several occurences that took place at South Melbourne's last home game against Adelaide City.

South Melbourne has also vowed to help authorities to identify the people responsible for the damage to Adelaide City's team bus which resulted in injuries to two City players.

The club have offered a reward for anyone who can help them identify the offenders.

"We will do everything in our power to assist the investigation," said South President, George Vasilopoulos.

"There is no place for incidents of this nature at South Melbourne and we will move to ensure that the people responsible are not allowed near the club."

Angelo Costanzo and John Gibson were both taken to Royal Melbourne Hospital for treatment. Gibson has gashes on his legs from shattered glass windows and Costanzo eye injuries.

All the trouble stemmed from the sending off of Lakers defender Kuzmanovic, for allegedly elbowing City's Dino Mennilio.

Kuzmanovic was spotted by assistant referee, Perry Mur, who alerted referee Gerry Connolly to the incident.

Connolly immediately red carded Kuzmanovic. The player protested and had to be restrained by team mates as he approached Mur.

ABSW reporter, John Rigas was present when Kuzmanovic was alleged to have forced his way into the referees' room. Rigas states that the player calmly knocked and entered to show Connolly scratch marks on his chest, contrary to other reports.

ALL WHITES HAVE NEW COACH

Soccer New Zealand's technical director Joe McGrath was appointed All Whites coach last week and immediately promised a new look national side.

McGrath, who takes over from Keith Pritchett, is determined to make the most of his first senior international appointment.

The Irishman said he was committed to casting the net far and wide in an effort to ensure that New Zealand's best players were involved.

At the top of that list is All Whites star Wynton Rufer. "Rufer is a good player and I want him on the park."

"Against Oman and Qatar on the Middle East tour he was absolutely superb. I see him playing a specific role in behind the front two."

MASSARO SCORES FOR MARCONI

Italian world cup star, Daniele Massaro scored a face saving equaliser for Marconi Fairfield in its 1-1 draw with Japanese club, Vissel Kobe in a friendly at Marconi Stadium.

Striker Massaro, making a guest appearance for the Stallions, goaled from close range in the 74th minute.

Vissel led at halftime through an 11th minute goal from midfielder Jun Naito.

NSW Soccer Federation

FIRST DIVISION

By Paul Goodwin

Hurstville Minotaurs 0 Ryde City 1

Ryde City scored the winner for the second game running by way of a substitute; on this occasion it was Jim Boudaher who steered a firmly struck free kick in off a defender's deflection, deceiving the otherwise flawless John Mylanos in the Minotaurs' goal.

Just as in the previous win over Wests the winner came in stoppage time, but against Minotaurs it was against an opposition reduced to nine men at the finish and with only ten on the park for most of the second half.

Minotaurs players reacted angrily to the dismissals of both players and there were ugly scenes at the finish. Officials from the two clubs handled the situation soundly, but it was a shame that a promising match was marred by such events, when both sides looked like producing a genuinely good game.

Stanmore Hawks 3 Belmore Hercules 1

These two sides had their first outing on Saturday and Stanmore came out on top, capitalising on Belmore's loss of striker Jason Lal, red carded just before the break.

Eddie Briscoe came off the bench to set up Con Anagnastopoulos with a close range, clinical finish to a pass threaded through the smallest of openings and then put away a penalty himself after a Belmore defender had handled.

In between Marshall Soper conjured up a fine cross which Daniel Percy turned into his own net, signalling another Stanmore offensive and eventually a third goal.

Briscoe lifted the ball from a free kick out on the right touchline and 'Alpha' Anagnastopoulos got the slightest of headed touches on the ball to leave Angelo Rodic beaten again.

It was a good start to the 1st Division coaching career of John Sentas who steered 2nd Division Alexandria to the Grand Final last season and who has placed great store by his younger players, many of whom were with him last term as well.

Bathurst 0 Mt Pritchard 1

Mounties maintained their 100 per cent record this season with a handy 1-0 win up at Bathurst, pony-tailed striker Greg Baldock netting the winner for the second week in a row.

Penrith Panthers 2 Stanmore Hawks 1

Penrith left it late to win their first of the season, with Jason Wyngaard diving at boot-high level to head past Paul Kyprianou in the 88th minute after the sides had been locked at 1-1.

Penrith's first from Danny Hinton came in the 3rd while Con Anagnastopoulos replied in the 39th for Stanmore in a game which was full of good Soccer, but was spoiled by a serious cheekbone injury sustained by Paul Bontvolcen after a clash with a Stanmore defender.

Fairfield Bulls 1 Hills United 0

Nabil Codmani was the hero following his 43rd minute strike which provided the Fairfield side with their first win. Codmani rounded Terry Ide in the Hills' goal after Mark Abi Arrage had cut the ball into his path inside the penalty area.

Fairfield hung on well this time, after conceding late goals and missing out on a total of 4 points in their two previous matches, with Dragon Grujic standing out in the home defence on Sunday.

Rockdale Suns 0 Eastern Suburbs 0

Rockdale garnered another useful point when they held out Eastern Suburbs despite playing with ten men for most of the second half and losing two more players late in the game, to red cards.

Illawarra Lions 2 Warringah 0

Illawarra Lions recorded their first win after a disappointing start a fortnight ago, when Robert Trajcevski and Cane Despotovski were on hand to finish off moves with clinical touches in the 13th and 74th minutes respectively.

Belmore Hercules 0 Hurstville Minotaurs 2

Minotaurs bounced back to beat Belmore 2-0 at Ernie Smith on Sunday, Louis Dounis scoring twice, his goals coming at the tail end of each half.

Dounis had bagged half a dozen already this year.

West Wanderers 2 Auburn United 3

A very quick goal at the start of each half helped Auburn to a first win of the year against a tiring West Wanderers, appearing at their new home Hajduk Stadium for the first time.

Unal Ogmen was able to beat Vic Vella in the 25th second of the game, after a ball played into the area from deep had caught the keeper napping.

Wests pulled one back through James Mallia in the 30th minute, but lightning struck twice when Auburn repeated their first half trick to score within seconds of the resumption of play.

This time Deniz Keselik capitalised on the positioning of some stunned defenders by tucking the ball away.

Wests seemed to have things back under control when they equalised again with a Matthew Richardson screamer in the 56th, but Auburn got the eventual winner in stoppage time.

Down to ten men after a send off, Auburn had Ante Krezo to thank for getting on the end of a Hulusi Orhan corner in the dying seconds for their 3-2 win.

SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND 3 — PRE SEASON TOURNAMENT

Southern Group

St George Saints (Savoca 46, 54; Ellul 75, Alidenes 84)	4	Canterbury Marrickville (Christoforidis 40)	1
Sutherland Sharks (Bard 22, Porter 89)	2	Bankstown City Lions	0
Macarthur Rams (Lindley 3)	1	Lynwood Park	0
Adamstown Rosebud (Lane 48)	1	Blacktown City (Cleary 31, Anderson 58, 61; Harding 88, Berry 89)	5

Northern Group

Byrigg White Eagles (Ninkovic 19)	1	Central Coast (Byrn 25, Heighway 29)	2
Blacktown City (De Jesus 53)	1	Sydney United	0
Adamstown Rosebud (Lane 55)	1	Parramatta Eagles (Karavatakis 42, 44, 80; Gilbert 70)	4

DIVISION ONE

ROUND 3

TEAMS	FIRST	U/21	U/19
Rockdale City Suns v Eastern Suburbs	0-0	0-10	3-2
Illawarra Lions v Warringah Dolphins	2-0	0-1	0-2
Fairfield Bulls v Hill United	1-0	1-2	2-4
Bathurst '75 v Mt Pritchard	0-1	2-0	1-3
Penrith Panthers v Stanmore Hawks	2-1	4-1	0-1
West Wanderers v Auburn United	2-3	1-2	0-0
Belmore Hercules v Hurstville City Minotaurs	0-2	0-1	0-3
Greystanes v Ryde City	2-3	3-3	3-4
Hurstville City Minotaurs v Ryde City	0-1	1-0	N/A
Stanmore Hawks v Belmore Hercules	3-1	N/A	N/A

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION FIRST DIVISION

ROUND FOUR — Saturday 1st March

Hills United v Rockdale City Suns
Fred Caterson Reserve — 3pm

★ ★ ★

Eastern Suburbs v Illawarra Lions
Wentworth Park — 3pm

★ ★ ★

Warringah Dolphins v Greystanes
Cromer Park — 3pm

★ ★ ★

Mt. Pritchard v Fairfield Bulls
Cook Park (Bonnyrigg) — 3pm

★ ★ ★

Stanmore Hawks v Bathurst '75
Arlington Oval — 3pm

★ ★ ★

West Wanderers v Penrith Panthers
Hadjuk Stadium — 3pm

★ ★ ★

Hurstville City Minotaurs v Auburn United
Ernie Smith Reserve — 3pm

★ ★ ★

Ryde City v Belmore Hercules
T G Milner Field — 3pm

★ ★ ★

ROUND FIVE — Sunday 2nd March

Rockdale City Suns v Mt. Pritchard
R. Ilinden Sports Centre — 3pm

★ ★ ★

Illawarra Lions v Hills United
Ian McLellan Park — 3pm

★ ★ ★

Warringah Dolphins v Eastern Suburbs
Cromer Park — 3pm

★ ★ ★

Fairfield Bulls v Stanmore Hawks
Nineveh Field — 3pm

★ ★ ★

Bathurst '75 v West Wanderers
Alec Lamberton — 3pm

★ ★ ★

Ryde City v Auburn United
T G Milner Field — 3pm

★ ★ ★

Greystanes v Belmore Hercules
Melita Stadium — 3pm

★ ★ ★

Penrith Panthers v Hurstville City Minotaurs
Cook Park (St Marys) — 5.30pm

★ ★ ★

SUPER LEAGUE — PRE SEASON

ROUND FOUR *SOUTHERN GROUP* Saturday 1st March

Leichhardt Tigers v St. George Saints
St. George Stadium — 3pm

★ ★ ★

Sutherland Sharks v Macarthur Rams
St. George Stadium — 5pm

★ ★ ★

Bankstown CIty Lions v Canterbury M/ville
St. George Stadium — 7pm

ROUND FOUR *NORTHERN GROUP* Sunday 2nd March

Sydney United v Central Coast
Gabbie Stadium — 3pm

★ ★ ★

Bonnyrigg W.E. v Adamstown Rosebud
Gabbie Stadium — 5pm

★ ★ ★

Blacktown City Demons v Parramatta Eagles
Gabbie Stadium — 7pm

SOCCER NSW INFORMATION SERVICE 0055 22885

Max. call cost 75c/min. — IDS (Higher rate applies with mobile and public phones)

ERICSSON CUP

RESULTS & SCORERS

ROUND EIGHTEEN

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 1
Halpin (44).
WOLLONGONG CITY 0
Crowd: 6,154

CANBERRA COSMOS 4
Kelly (10), Armstrong (49), Dee (65), Markovski (75)
PERTH GLORY 1
Despotovski (42)
Crowd: 2,626

GIPPSLAND FALCONS 1
Duric (51)
UTS OLYMPIC 1
Tome (56)
Crowd: 2,323

BRISBANE STRIKERS 2
OG (72), Wright (77)
SOUTH MELBOURNE 3
Damianos (7), Blatsis (9), Trimboli (90 pen)
Crowd: 5,983

COLLINGWOOD WARRIORS 3
Taliadoros (32, 54), Tapai (45)
WEST ADELAIDE 0
Crowd: N/A

SYDNEY UNITED 1
Zdrilic (18)
MARCONI FAIRFIELD 3
Babic (16), Harper (65, 75)
Crowd: 11,614

ADELAIDE CITY 1
Hassell (35)
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 0
Crowd: 4,294

ATTENDANCE FIGURES FOR ROUND 18
1995/96 – 31,832
1996/97 – 32,994
(Excludes Collingwood Crowd)

ROUND 19 FIXTURES

Prices Supplied by SportOdds

SOUTH MELBOURNE *4/7* v **WOLLONGONG CITY** *4/1*
DRAW 5/2
FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY 1997, 8.00PM — Bob Jane Stadium

MARCONI FAIRFIELD *6/4* v **ADELAIDE CITY** *13/8*
DRAW 2/1
SATURDAY 1 MARCH 1997, 7.00PM — Marconi Stadium

MELB KNIGHTS *5/4* v **BRISBANE STRIKERS** *7/4*
DRAW 9/4
SUNDAY 2 MARCH 1997, 6.00PM — Knights Stadium

PERTH GLORY *1/4* v **COLLINGWOOD WARRIORS** *8/1*
DRAW 7/2
SUNDAY 2 MARCH 1997, 4.00PM — Perth Oval

UTS OLYMPIC *2/1* v **SYDNEY UNITED** *EV*
DRAW 9/4
SUNDAY 2 MARCH 1997, 6.30PM — Belmore Oval

WEST ADELAIDE *1/2* v **GIPPSLAND FALCONS** *9/2*
DRAW 5/2
SUNDAY 2 MARCH 1997, 7.30PM — Hindmarsh Stadium

Bet on any sport over the phone.
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SOUTH MELBOURNE FINED

South Melbourne have been fined $10,000 for breaches of Ericsson Cup by-laws.

The Club was charged on eight counts including having insufficient number of police present, failure to provide safe escort from the ground of the visitors bus etc.

They may face further punishment after a Disciplinary Tribunal meeting in Melbourne on Thursday.

Leading Goal Scorers

NAME	TEAM	GLS
David Zdrilic	Sydney United	15
Aime Milicic	Sydney United	12
Bobby Depostovksi	Perth Glory	11
Rod Brown	Brisbane Strikers	9
Norman Tome	UTS Olympic	9
Jimmy Tsekenis	West Adelaide	9
Frank Farina	Brisbane Strikers	8
Ice Kutlesovski	Melbourne Knights	8
Andrew Harper	Marconi Fairfield	7
Vas Kalageracos	Perth Glory	7
Paul Strudwick	Perth Glory	7

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney United	18	12	3	3	47	24	39
Brisbane Strikers	18	10	2	6	38	27	32
Adelaide City	18	8	7	3	23	13	31
Marconi Farifield	18	9	3	6	28	23	30
South Melbourne	18	8	4	6	23	17	28
Perth Glory	18	8	3	7	35	30	27
West Adelaide	18	8	2	8	27	32	26
Wollongong City	18	6	7	5	25	26	25
Newcastle Breakers	19	5	8	6	30	30	23
UTS Olympic	18	6	5	7	25	29	23
Melbourne Knights	18	5	5	8	21	22	20
Collingwood Warriors	18	4	7	7	18	31	19
Gippsland Falcons	18	3	5	10	17	32	14
Canberra Cosmos	19	2	5	12	20	41	11

ACT Soccer Federation

SAPPORO JUST TOO GOOD

By GRAHAM COOKE

Fitness was an issue, but ACT senior coach Walter Valeri was not making it an excuse after his team's 3-0 loss to visiting Japanest club side Consadole Sapporo at the Bruce Athletics Field.

His team of amateurs and part-timers were still in the game at half time, but was run off its legs by the speedy Japanese after the interval. Only in a lengthy period of stoppage time added on by referee Bill Simeonovic was there a flurry, when the ACT could have grabbed two goals.

Valeri pointed out his team, drawn from the Premier League of the ACT competition, was still in pre-season "and we don't have the luxury of training every day."

"But that's not an excuse ... we made silly mistakes when the fatigue set in and got punished for it," he said.

The squad was picked from the best players based on last season's performances, minus those who are with the Canberra Cosmos – obviously that will change when the 1997 competition gets under way."

And there might well be something worthwhile to aim for if a trip currently being undertaken by ACT Soccer Federation president Steve Doszpot bears fruit.

Doszpot is in Indonesia on business and plans to sound out the possibility of the ACT touring there later this year to play club or provincial sides.

"Apart from that we still have the regular match with Illawarra on Queen's Birthday weekend, and we hope to play games against other state sides as well, so it could be a full program," Valeri said.

"The aim is to provide a winter interest for the Soccer public to match the Cosmos in the Ericsson Cup."

It was Consadole which provided most of the interest at the Athletics Field, taking the lead in the second minute when goalkeeper Bruce Norton dropped a free kick and Koichi Togashi pounced on the loose ball.

Norton turned schoolmaster in the 20th minute when George Vardes, having been put through by Hugo Maradona, made an elaborate dive in the penalty area as the goalkeeper gathered the ball.

It fooled no-one, least of all Simeonovic, but the enraged Norton nonetheless gave Vardes a half-minute lecture on the evils of gamesmanship.

Vardes had to wait another 50 minutes to get on the scoresheet - a penalty past substitute goalkeeper Pedro Pavel.

And he was indirectly involved in the third. Having gained a free kick five metres outside the box, he stood aside for Luiz Carlos Periera to blast into the net.

The home side applied more pressure in a seven minute period of stoppage time than in the whole of the second half. First Consadole goalkeeper Dido Havenaar dropped to stop a fierce drive from Lino Fiorese, then Daniel Macor got into a scoring position only to shoot over the bar.

The result means Consadole returns home with a 100 per cent record, having previously beaten the Australian Institute of Sport 3-1 and the ACT Youth team 6-0.

Markovski to make difference

By GRAHAM COOKE

Canberra Cosmos coach Mike Lyons is not a man afraid of repeating himself. Take a trip to the dressing room after almost any game this season, and you will hear the same analysis.

"We were too naive ... we let them play the way they wanted ... we had them on the hook, and let them get away."

Naive. Perhaps one of the most used words in Lyons' vocabulary; but all through the miserable 1996-97 campaign he has stuck to this proposition: The Cosmos have often been as good if not better than their opposition, but have simply not had what it takes to ram home the advantage.

Now the question long-suffering Canberra fans are asking themselves is: Can new signing John Markovski make a difference?

"Yes," says Lyons, with the same passion and commitment he has to his belief the Cosmos are not fundamentally a bad side.

"John is match-hardened and streetwise. He knows what the Ericsson Cup is all about, and I believe he can make a major contribution to this team.

"Where else could I pick up a 26 year old international who scores goals? This is a player who can transform teams."

But what about Markovski's celebrated weight problems ... the fact he is in dispute with his former club, Melbourne Knights, to the point where they are prepared to see the back of him?

John Markovski: Joined Cosmos. Coach confident in the strikers ability.

Like every coach, Lyons feels he can surmount these obstacles – and in fairness, the history of Soccer is littered with players who have resurrected their careers with new clubs and fresh starts.

"I'm looking forward to having him here ... it's always a joy to work with quality players, and as for those other problems, I feel John can put them in the past. He got married recently, and he and his wife are looking for a place to stay in Canberra.

"At his best he was a half-chance man – and that's what we've been lacking in the forward line."

Markovski is coming as a replacement for Marko Perinovic, who is moving on to Singapore.

"We were reluctant to let Marko go," Lyons said. "But he had a really good offer, and as he pointed out, at 32 he wants to make the most out of the remainder of his career."

Lyons could take some crumb of comfort from the outstanding display by Olympic youngster Brett Emerton in the recent 2-0 loss at Bruce Stadium.

"He was one player I really went after at the beginning of the season, but of course he was already signed up," he said.

Vale Stuart Duncan

By GRAHAM COOKE

Stuart Duncan Devlin, who has died aged 57, was for many years a prominent player, coach and administrator in the ACT area.

Born in Greenock, Scotland, he migrated to Australia with his family in the mid-1950s, and first played senior Soccer for South Coast United.

After moving to Canberra in the early 1960s, he played with Juventus, Olympic and Monaro, as well as representing the ACT on many occasions, before completing his playing career in the mid-1970s.

He continued to make a major contribution to the development of the game in Canberra, becoming foundation president of Kambah United in the then newly-developing Tuggeranong Valley.

Kambah eventually amalgamated with Wanniassa to form Tuggeranong United, a constant member of the Premier League ever since.

Devlin also became ACT youth representative coach and was responsible for recommending a then unknown 16 year old from Papua New Guinea, Manis Lamond, to Canberra City.

Lamond went on to play many years in the National League, first for City and then, after a transfer fee in the region of $30,000 for Sydney United.

Devlin later took charge of Canberra City's National Youth League side and was responsible for bringing on talented youngsters of the calibre of Joe Gagetti, Jason Dunn and Chris Hummel, all of whom graduated to the national competition.

A self-employed painter and decorator, Devlin left the ACT about eight years ago. He had bought a unit on the Gold Coast and was intending to retire next year.

Laurie Coulter, a team-mate and co-founder of Kambah United, described him as "a good friend, good competitor and a man never afraid to put his point of view, even if it was at odds with the establishment line."

He is survived by his wife, Ann, sons Anthony and Sean and daughter Jody.

WIN CASH PRIZE

The ACTSF Men's Senior Representative Team is looking for a new image, and the ACTSF Board of Management has agreed to a competition among the general public to determine:

(a) a name for the team; and

(b) a logo or design in keeping with that name.

The name should be catchy (eg. Canberra Cosmos) and should be identifiable with a senior Soccer team. The logo should be a visual representation of that name (eg. Victor the Viking is descriptive of Canberra Raiders).

There will be a single prize of $500.00 allocated to the entry considered by the judges to be the most appropriate.

General Rules

1. Closing date for entries is 7 March 1997.
2. Entries are to be mailed to: ACT Rep Team Competition, GPO Box 405 Canberra ACT 2601.
3. ACTSF staff, members of the ACTSF Board of Directors and their families are ineligible to enter this competition.
4. All entries become the property of the ACT Soccer Federation Inc., and will be retained by that body. No entry will be returned.
5. The decision of the judges is final, and no correspondence will be entered into in regard to that decision.
6. The ACTSF reserves the right to use the winning entry in any way it sees fit to promote the ACT Senior Representative Team.
7. The winner will be notified by mail, and may be requested to attend a presentation ceremony with the media and ACTSF personnel.

IEA CUP DRAW OUT

The ACT Manager of IEA, Robert Smith, said his company was pleased to be associated with a sport on the move.

"In the lead-up to the Olympics you have some great opportunities to develop the game and promote the talent which will flock to the code," he said.

"And if the Cosmos is not having an easy time in its early years in the Ericsson Cup, you do not have to cast your minds back too far to remember the sad winters of defeat which marked the first few years of the Canberra Raiders.

"But when they begain to win, that little success bred more success, until they are what they are today."

He pointed out that IEA, which pas provided insurance for ACT Soccer since 1989, is part of the French-based UAP group. "In turn, that is owned by the Axa Group, which is the second largest insurer in the world."

Mr Smith was making the draw for the Insurance Exchange of Australia sponsored Federation Cup at the Canberra Rex Hotel last Thursday night.

Cup holder Weston Creek begins its defence with what, on paper, should be an easy match against Cooma.

At least one team from the State League — the second tier of ACT soccer — will play in the quarter final of the competition after the pairing of Capital City Suns and White Eagles.

THE FULL CUP DRAW IS:

Belconnen United v Burns Club
Canberra Defence v Monaro
Gungahlin Juventus v Canberra Deakin
Tuggeranong United v Canberra City
Capital City Suns v White Eagles
University of Canberra v Olympic
Queanbeyan City v ANU
Cooma v Weston Creek

THE COMPETITION WILL CONTINUE ON SUCCESSIVE SUNDAYS, WITH THE FINAL ON MARCH 23.

ACTSF

CANBERRA Suit OUR SOCCER CITY

WIN $500

The world game is growing in Canberra and the ACTSF is conducting a competition to find a name and a logo for the ACT Representative Soccer team. Send your entry along with the coupon below to ACT Soccer Federation, PO Box 405 Canberra, ACT 2601 and your entry could win $500.

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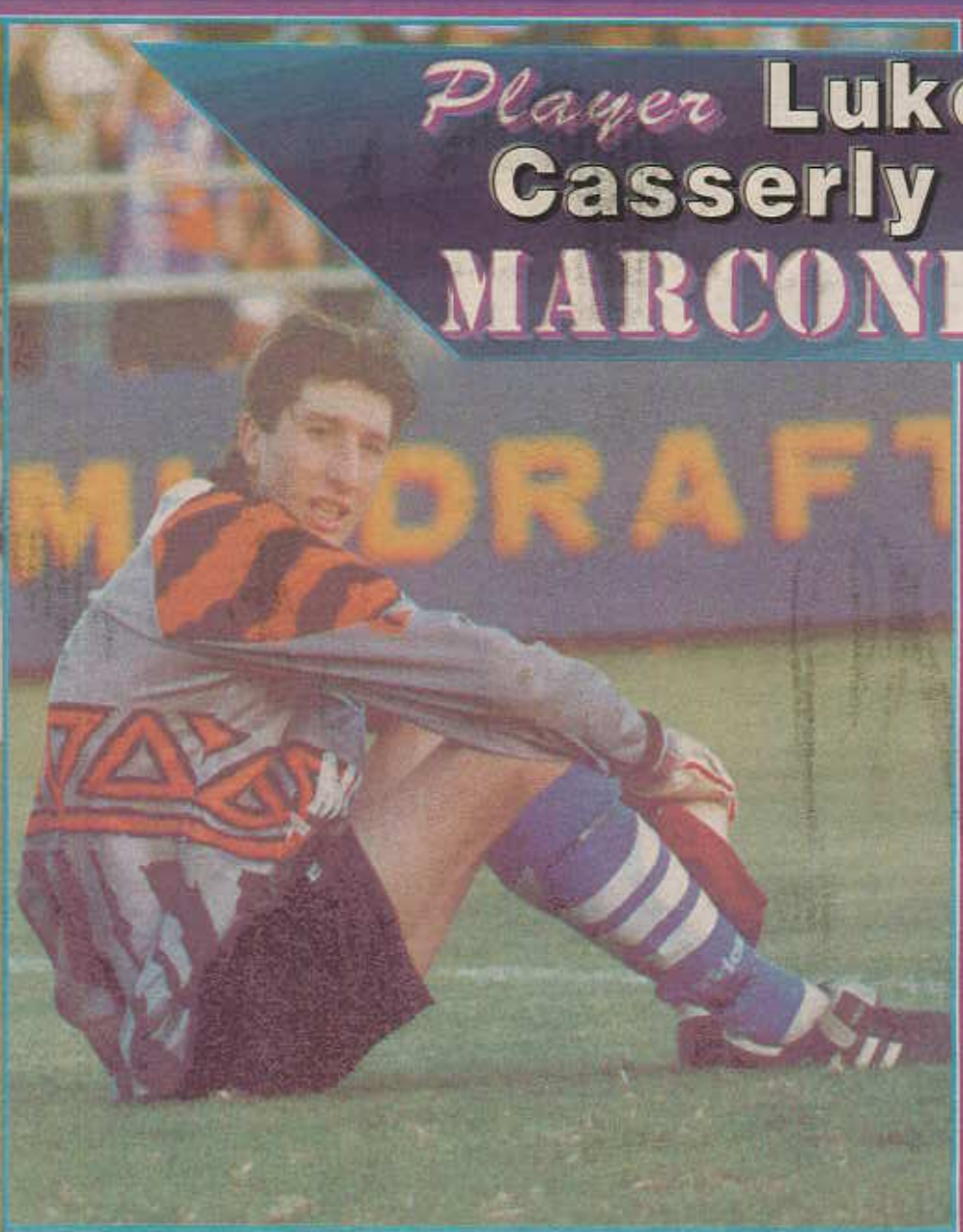
"Get Behind Your Local Sport"

For further enquiries and a copy of competition rules telephone the ACTSF office on 9248 0614. *Entries close March 7th.*

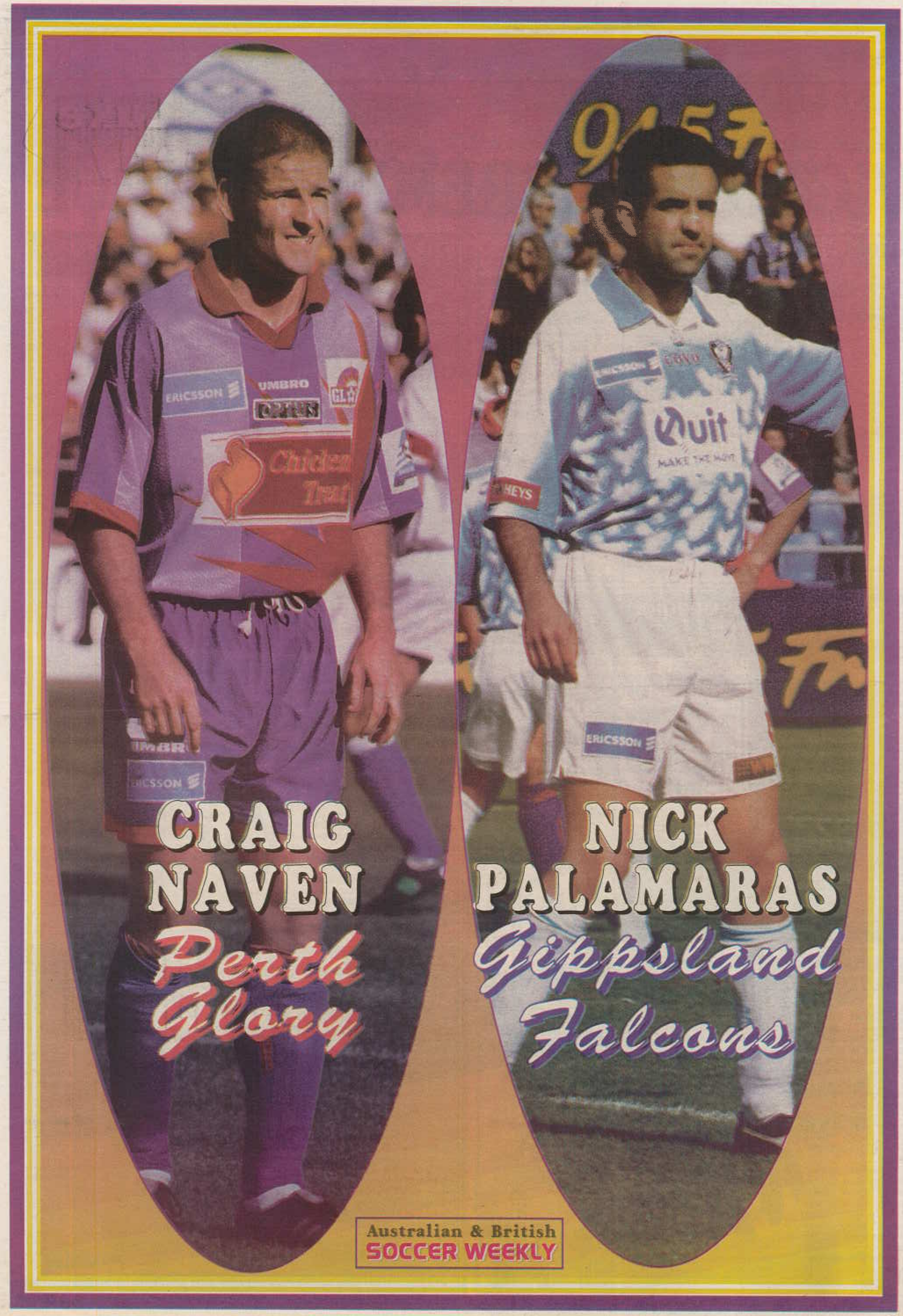


Player **Luke Casserly**
MARCONI

Referee
Andy Gorton

Goalie **Joey Diduluca**
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

Australian & British
SOCCER WEEKLY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NAVEN
Perth
Glory
NICK
PALAMARAS
Gippsland
Falcons
Australian & British
SOCCER WEEKLY

Victorian Soccer Federation

VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

ALTONA MAGIC 3 SUNSHINE GEORGIES 0

By ZORAN MILENKOVSKI

Defending Victorian Premier League champions Altona Magic outclassed a dsappointing Sunshine Georgies at Paisley Park on Saturday night.

The opening goal was scored in the 21st minute when Savva Rusmir's cross found striker Sash Becvinovski in the box who put his chance past Tony Lyras. Becvinovski added a second just before the break to put the result beyond Sunshine's reach.

In the second half hard working forward Michael Michalakopoulos also joined the scorers to give Altona an excellent victory.

Magic president Millissa Fischer-Massa has already set her sights on a third championship and statedthat she is interested in a couple of Collingwood Warriors players and two overseas imports to strengthen Altona's chances.

Magic:
McGrath, Atanasovski, Bogoevski, Runje, Micevski, Markovski, Rusmir, Madarovski (Cvetkovski), Becvinovski, Michalakopoulos, Velkovski.

Georgies:
Lyras, Byrne, Dragecevic, Branov, Magnacca (Romero), Vassallo, Field, Dagiaras, Nilo, Emmanualle, Tsirsakis.
Referee: J Zafiriou.

THIS WEEK'S FIXTURES

Round Four

SATURDAY MARCH 1

Thomastown Zebras v Altona Magic
Preston Lions v Bentleigh Greens
Heidelberg United v Springvale White Eagles
Melton Reds v North Geelong Warriors
Sunshine Georgies v Port Melbourne Sharks
St Albans Saints v Green Gully Cavaliers

MONDAY MARCH 3

Bulleen Inter Kings v Fawkner Blues

BENTLEIGH GREENS 0 THOMASTOWN ZEBRAS 2

By BERT VAN BEDAF

Thomastown Zebras king-hit Bentleigh Greens with a devastating first half, netting two goals to walk away convincing 2-0 winners.

A clever set piece from a free kick in the 28th minute saw George Jolevski blast the ball high into the net for the opening goal and three minutes later Nick Cuculevski slotted Thomastown's second past Greens 'keeper Chris Jones from a close scramble.

The Zebras could have led earlier when in the seventh minute a header from Davide Iacovitti hit the cross bar.

Bentleigh was denied a reply in the 60th minute when Dale White's strike was judged offside by referee Peter Ralevski and a volley by Jim Kotsovolos four minutes later went just centimetres wide.

Thomastown coach Mauro Raponi, in his rookie year, was more than satisifed with the win.

"We've got a little game plan worked out and teams haven't figured us out yet. We want to try and play top five Soccer. Our aim is to win a place in the top five," Raponi said.

George Jolevski of Thomastown Zebras

Greens:
Jones, Drakos, Micheil, Crivari, Constantinou, Theoharous, Kotsovolos, Van Egmond, White (Kalimeris), Barovic (Papettas), Charalambous (McDonagh).

Zebras:
Trenkovski, Jolevski, Angelovski, Della Rocca, Belic, Iacovitti, Boschini, Lingurovski (Iacuone), Bichler (De Propertis), Cuculevski, Gasparini.

NORTH GEELONG WARRIORS 0 HEIDELBERG UNITED 0

By ROY HAY

Nine heroes from North Geelong fought wind and rain against a rampant Heidelberg United but could not prevent a 2-0 defeat on Saturday.

Heidelberg's Jeff Stefanidis and North's David Cucil both hit the woodwork in the first half as both sides peppered the goals in the first hour without result.

The game was evenly balanced until Franc Bot was sent off for his second cautionable offence.

The ten men fought on, but the cause seemed beyond hope when Richie O'Sullivan followed Bot for an early shower after he was adjudged to handle a net bound shot from Joe Biskic.

North 'keeper Bobby Simic pulled off a great save to deny Tom Karapatsos but in 71 minutes George Svigos drilled a half clearance past Simic.

Seven minutes later Heidelberg threw six players forward and again Svigos was in a position to score, before limping off with a leg injury.

Warriors:
Simic, Bot, O'Sullivan, Tillinger, Cosic, Besel (I Skoko), Ljubicic, G Skoko, Sobevski (Begg), A Skoko, Cueli.

United:
Clarke, Karapatsos, Anastasiou, Liapis, Hasler, Svigos (Jugovic), Slifkas (Parisis), Biskic, Sherifovski, Stefanidis (Sevastiadis), Alexiou.
Referee: R Caminiti.

PORT MELBOURNE SHARKS 4 ST ALBANS SAINTS 2

By DWYGHT TUFFNELL

Port Melbourne retained their 100% record when they defeated St Albans 4-2 in an entertaining game at Anderson Reserve on Friday night.

Striker Nick Tsaltas scored a hat trick in the comfortable win to leave Ken Murhy's team on top of the ladder.

John Pappas opened the scoring in the eight minute before Tsaltas single handedly ruined any hopes the Saints might have had of grabbing at least a point.

He scored in the 38th, 58th and 67th minutes, profitting on each occasion from midfielder Nick Papadopoulos who also had a hand in Pappas' opener.

The Saints did get a goal before half time through Idriz Pelja to be 2-1 down at the break.

But in the second half the Papadopoulos - Tsaltas combination was just too good for the Saints.

Veteran striker Paul Lewis did pull back one back in the 88th minute with an expert finish and might have had another one shortly after, but the Sharks were never in any danger of losing.

Sharks:
Lillkakis (Frangos), Latinopoulos (Livanopoulos), Argyriou (Strapelia), Dimitrelos, Kyriakopoulos, Vargas, Pappas, Papadopoulos, Tsaltas, Efstathiou, Mason.

Saints:
Vunderl, Razov, Cuze (S Rados), M Colina, Mikulic, Ciagula, Pelja (Kirishian), Jolic, I Colina, Lewis, J Kozic (Trogrlic).
Referee: C Naumcevski.

SPRINGVALE WHITE EAGLES 1 PRESTON LIONS 0

By MILAN NINOVIC

Springvale White Eagles claimed their first win of the Premier League season with a 1-0 win over Preston Lions on Saturday night. The White Eagles, reduced to ten men after just 12 minutes, marked an impressive win with a goal in the 64th minute from Predrag Mladenovic.

Anthony Burlak was shown the red card in the 12th minute for a crude tackle on Preston full back, Sasho Slaveski.

Slaveski too, got himself sent off in the 93rd minute for a second bookable offence.

Mladenovic scored the only goal of the game in the 64th minute when he was able to beat Lions 'keeper Lupce Acevski straight from the corner kick.

Preston's Zoran Drogriski was unlucky not to equalise in the 79th minute when his shot from the edge of the box hit the post.

White Eagles:
Jevdjevic, Milnar, M Marinkovic, Kitanovski, Rikanovic, Nikolic (Stjczien), Mladenovic, A Burlak (sent off), Gnjidic, Gacovski, Z Mihajlovic (Calomino).

Lions:
Acevski, Slaveski (sent off), Drogriski, Lisolajski (Chiodo), Stavrevski, Ivanov, Emsovski, Filiposki, M Burlak, Ujgunovski (Tasevski), Donev.
Referee: J Ouliaris.

ROUND 3 — RESULTS

PORT MELBOURNE SHARKS (Pappas, Tsaltas 3)	4	ST ALBANS SAINT (Pelja, Lewis)	2
FAWKNER BLUES	0	MELTON REDS (K Simsek)	1
NORTH GEELONG WARRIORS	0	HEIDELBERG UNITED (Svigos 2)	2
SPRINGVALE WHITE EAGLES (Mladenovic)	1	PRESTON LIONS	0
Bentleigh Greens	0	Thomastown Zebras (Jolevski, Cuculevski)	2
ALTONA MAGIC (Becvinovski 2, Michalakopoulos)	3	SUNSHINE GEORGIES	0

LEAGUE LADDER

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTs
Port Melbourne Sharks	3	3	0	0	11	3	9
Thomastown Zebras	3	3	0	0	9	3	9
Bentleigh Greens	3	2	0	1	7	3	6
Green Gully Cavaliers	2	2	0	0	6	0	6
Heidelberg United	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
Altona Magic	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Preston Lions	3	1	0	2	6	6	3
Fawkner Blues	3	1	0	2	7	8	3
Springvale White Eagles	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
Melton Reds	3	1	0	2	1	9	3
St Albans Saints	3	0	2	1	5	7	2
Bulleen Inter	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Sunshine Georgies	3	0	1	2	4	10	1
North Geelong Warriors	3	0	0	3	2	9	0

Rising Stars

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE (Victorian Division) 21-6 February, 1997

By ROY HAY

Melbourne Knights took over the leadership of the Victorian Division of the National Youth League after a five-two win away to Altona Magic and after collecting three points for the forfeit of its Round Fourteen match against Box Hill. John Kalabric sent the Knights on their way after 10 minutes and Tom Gavran made it two seven minutes later, with Joey Rajher extending the lead to three inside the first half-hour. Altona Magic came back with a goal by Alexander Josifovski, but two strikes by Festim Zekiri left the Knights in control even though Magic scored late in the game through Jovan Novacevski.

The Victorian Institute of Sport and South Melbourne fought out a highly charged two-all draw at Paisley Reserve. South's dominated the first half and a spectacular strike from 30 metres by Daniel Allsopp gave it a lead in the ninth minute on which it should have built. Early in the second half, Allsopp, Cameron Pino and George Goutzioulis combined to force a fine save from Peter Zois in the VIS goal, but when the ball was knocked back in again Alfonso Opazo stuck it away with his head. Ernie Merrick had instructed his strikers to stay upfield and gradually the VIS clawed its way back into the game. Zoran Petrevski got to the bye line and his high cross was dummied by Billy Petrovski for Las Zaekis to finish at the back post. Then Petrovski outstripped the defence on a long ball forward and put the ball under South keeper Nick Koletsas. Zaekis had a chance to steal the game for the VIS in the last minute but snatched at his shot.

On Saturday Gippsland Falcons beat Bentleigh Greens by two goals to one in the Latrobe Valley. John Hutchinson of Falcons and Nick Rossios of the Greens traded successful penalty kicks but Simon Nardone won the game for the Falcons with his goal. The Greens had a player sent off and could not get back into the game, but did pick up three points from a Box Hill forfeit in Round 16.

Thomastown Zebras had a comfortable five-nil win over Springvale City marked by a Damien De Propertis hat-trick. Arthur Pappas and Lirim Salievski scored the other goals. Thomastown also collected three points from another Box Hill forfeit.

Melbourne Knights Colts decisively downed Green Gully by three goals to one at Knight Stadium. Ivan Razov and Adis Kablar scored for the Knights and the third was an own goal. For the Greens, David Maglovski was the scorer. Razov joins Zoran Petrevski of the VIS on 15 goals for the season and the other two scorers figure on the leader board as well.

On Wednesday in the postponed game from Round 17. Sunshine Georgies overcame Melbourne Knights Colts by three goalsto two. Ivan Razov scored twice in this game, but this was not enough to cancel out two strikes by Saso Markovski and one by Nick Trpcevski.

The match between Collingwood Warriors and Heidelberg United was not played, while the Box Hill versus Sunshine Georgies match has been rescheduled to Wedneday 26 February, when the postponed Thomastown Zebras versus Gippsland Falcons game from Round 17 will also take place.

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE RESULTS

Round 18 — Northern Division

Newcastle Breakers (Hodgson 20)	1	**Wollongong City** (Spencer 59)	1
AIS (Tomich 57)	1	**Sydney United Colts** (Galea 70)	1
Marconi Fairfield Colts (Bruni 35, 64; Sofi 75)	3	**UTS Olympic Colts**	1
Sydney United	2	**Marconi Fairfield**	2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney United	14	8	4	2	32	13	28
Wollongong City	15	8	4	3	36	24	28
Newcastle Breakers	14	9	0	5	32	19	27
UTS Olympic	13	8	2	3	32	18	26
Marconi Fairfield	12	8	1	3	14	8	25
AIS	13	7	3	3	24	12	24
NSWIS	14	7	0	7	23	27	21
Sydney United Colts	15	6	1	8	21	24	19
QAS	15	4	2	9	27	28	14
ACT AS	13	3	1	9	14	30	10
Marconi Fairfield Colts	13	3	0	10	12	33	9
UTS Olympic Colts	13	2	0	11	10	41	6

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

Round 18 — Victorian Division

Saturday 22 February 1997

Gippsland Falcons (Hutchinson, Nardone)	2	**Bentleigh Greens** (Rossios)	1

Sunday 23 February 1997

Altona Magic (Josifovski, Navacevski) Kalabric)	2	**Melbourne Knights** (Zekiri 2, Gavran, Rajher,	5
VIS (Zaekis, Petrovski)	2	**South Melbourne** (Allsopp, Opazo)	2
Thomastown Zebras (De Propertis 3, Pappas, Salievski)	5	**Springvale City**	0
Melbourne Knights Colts (Kablar, Razov, O.G.)	3	**Green Gully**	1

Wednesday 26 February 1997

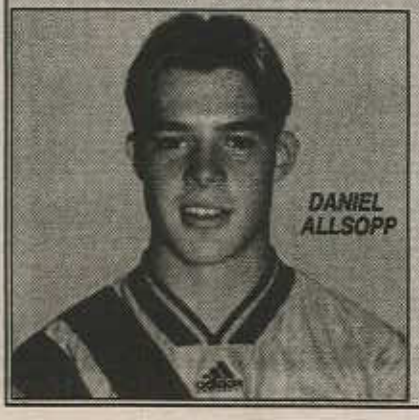
Box Hill	0	**Sunshine Georgies**	0

LEAGUE LADDER

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melbourne Knights	18	14	2	2	81	25	44
VIS	17	13	3	1	60	14	42
South Melbourne	18	12	1	5	73	28	37
Gippsland Falcons	17	11	3	3	54	24	36
Collingwood Warriors	16	8	4	4	42	33	28
Bentleigh Greens	17	8	2	7	35	29	26
Melbourne Knights Colts	18	8	1	9	34	41	25
Green Gully	18	7	3	8	39	37	24
Sunshine Georgies	16	7	3	6	24	31	24
Altona Magic	17	5	2	10	24	41	17
Thomastown Zebras	14	3	1	10	25	40	10
Heidelberg United	15	2	3	10	27	44	9
Springvale City Reds	18	2	3	13	20	90	9
Box Hill	15	0	3	12	12	73	3

LEADING GOALSCORERS

Name	Team	Goals
Branko Bacak	Melbourne Knights	28
Daniel Allsop	South Melbourne	22
Alfonso Opaza	South Melbourne	18
Ivan Razov	Melbourne Knights Colts	15
Zoran Petrevski	VIS	15
Bill Petrovski	VIS	13
Mijo Trupkovic	Melbourne Knights	11
David Maglovski	Green Gully	10
George Tzirtis	South Melbourne	10
Adis Kalblar	Melbourne Knights Colts	9
Kim Bouzis	Collingwood Warriors	8
Elias Kyriakou	Heidelberg United	8
George Goutzioulis	South Melbourne	8



DANIEL ALLSOPP

ROUND 19

FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY 1997
Bentleigh Greens v Springvale City *(6.00pm Kingston Heath)*

SATURDAY 1 MARCH 1997
South Melbourne v Green Gully *(3.00pm Bob Jane Stadium)*

SUNDAY 2 MARCH 1997
Heidelberg Utd v Gippsland Falcons *(4.30pm Olympic Village)*
Melbourne Knights v VIS *(3.30pm Knights Stadium)*
Thomastown Zebras v Altona Magic *(4.30pm Partridge Reserve)*
Box Hill v Melbourne Knights *Colts (6.30pm Wembley Park)*

WEDNESDAY 5 MARCH 1997
Sunshine Georgies v Collingwood Warriors *(6.30pm Chaplin Reserve)*
VIS v Altona Magic *(6.30pm Paisley Park, postponed from Round 15)*

Around the Globe

AFRICA

African Nations' Cup Qualifiers

Group 1

Zimbabwe	1	Angola	0

Group 2

Benin	1	Algeria	1

Group 3

Ethiopia	1	Egypt	1

Group 4

Guinea	1	Sierra Leone	0

Group 5

Kenya	0	Cameroon	0

Group 6

Togo	1	Zaire	1

Group 7

Malawi	2	Mozambique	0
Mauritius	0	Zambia	0

ARGENTINA

CLAUSURA CHAMPIONSHIP

Banfield	1	San Lorenzo	1
Boca Juniors	2	Estudiantes	1
Gimnasia-La Plata	0	River Plate	2
Huracan	0	Lanus	0
Independiente	2	Ferro Carril Oeste	2
Platense	1	Gimnasia-Jujuy	1
Rosario Central	5	Racing Club	0
Union	0	Corrientes	0
Velez Sarsfield	1	Newell's Old Boys	1

Note: the Clausura is the second of two championships played in the Argentine season. The teams play each other once in each and there is no overall champion.

BRAZIL

Sao Paulo Championship

Botafogo-Ribeirao	1	America/SJ do Rio	1
Corinthians	2	Sao Paulo	2
Palmeiras	5	Juventus	1
Portuguesa Santista	0	Internacional Limeira	2
Rio Branco	1	Aracatuba	0
Santos	2	Portuguesa	1
Sao Jose	3	Guarani	4
Uniao Sao Joao	1	Mogi Mirim	1

Group One Standings

Palmeiras	4	3	1	0	16	3	10
Guarani	4	3	1	0	12	7	10
Santos	4	3	0	1	8	5	9
Portuguesa	4	1	1	2	9	8	4
Sao Jose	4	1	1	2	7	12	4
Botafogo	4	0	3	1	4	5	3
America	4	0	2	2	3	11	2
Juventus	4	0	1	3	3	11	1

Group Two Standings

Sao Paulo	4	3	1	0	12	4	10
Corinthians	4	2	2	0	7	4	8
Internacional Limeira	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
Portuguesa Santista	4	2	0	2	5	7	6
Mogi Mirim	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
Uniao Sao Joao	4	1	1	2	3	5	4
Rio Branco	4	1	0	3	4	9	3
Aracatuba	4	0	1	3	3	6	1

Note: The teams play once against the teams from their own group and then twice against the teams in the opposite group. The top teams in each group then qualify for the four-team final stage.

ENGLAND

Premier League

Arsenal	1	Manchester United	2
Aston Villa	2	Coventry	1
Derby	2	Sheffield Wednesday	2
Liverpool	4	Leeds	0
(Played midweek)			
Arsenal	0	Wimbledon	1
Chelsea	1	Manchester United	1
Coventry	0	Everton	0
Leicester	4	Derby	2
Liverpool	0	Blackburn	0
Middlesbrough	0	Newcastle	1
Nottingham Forest	0	Aston Villa	0
Southampton	2	Sheffield Wednesday	3
Sunderland	0	Leeds	1

Manchester United	27	15	9	3	53	30	54
Liverpool	27	15	8	4	46	20	53
Newcastle	26	14	6	6	51	30	48
Arsenal	28	13	9	6	45	26	48
Aston Villa	27	12	7	8	34	26	43
Chelsea	25	11	9	5	39	34	42
Wimbledon	24	12	6	6	37	28	42
Sheffield Wednesday	26	9	12	5	31	31	39
Leeds	27	9	6	12	22	31	33
Everton	26	8	8	10	34	38	32
Tottenham	25	9	5	11	27	33	32
Leicester	25	8	6	11	29	37	30
Derby	27	6	11	10	27	36	29
Sunderland	26	7	8	11	23	33	29
Blackburn	25	6	10	9	26	25	28
Coventry	27	6	10	11	24	35	28
Nottingham Forest	26	5	9	12	23	40	24
West Ham	25	5	7	13	20	33	22
Southampton	24	5	5	14	34	44	20
Middlesbrough	25	5	7	13	30	45	19

(Middlesbrough deducted 3 points)

Division 1

Barnsley	1	Wolverhampton	3
Birmingham	1	Port Vale	2
Charlton	4	Norwich	4
Crystal Palace	0	Tranmere	1
Huddersfield	1	Bolton	2
Ipswich	2	Oxford United	1
Manchester City	3	Swindon	0
Oldham	1	Bradford	2
Reading	3	Southend	2
Sheffield United	3	Grimsby	1
Stoke	0	Queens Park Rangers	0
West Bromwich	0	Portsmouth	2

Bolton	34	19	11	4	71	45	68
Wolverhampton	33	17	7	9	47	32	58
Barnsley	32	15	10	7	54	40	55
Sheffield United	33	15	9	9	57	39	54
Norwich	33	14	8	11	50	52	50
Crystal Palace	32	13	10	9	59	34	49
Ipswich	33	12	12	9	47	42	48
Portsmouth	33	14	6	13	40	37	48
Stoke	32	13	8	11	40	43	47
Tranmere	32	13	7	12	44	42	46
QPR	33	11	11	11	44	45	44
Port Vale	33	10	14	9	40	38	44
Oxford United	33	12	7	14	46	43	43
Swindon	33	12	6	15	45	45	42
West Bromwich	34	9	14	11	54	60	41
Huddersfield	34	10	11	13	40	48	41
Reading	32	10	10	12	43	50	40
Charlton	32	11	7	14	39	47	40
Manchester City	31	11	5	15	39	43	38
Birmingham	29	9	10	10	32	33	37
Bradford	33	8	10	15	32	50	34
Southend	33	7	11	15	32	59	32
Grimsby	32	7	10	15	41	58	31
Oldham	31	6	10	15	32	43	28

Division 2

Chesterfield	1	Rotherhamn	1
(Played midweek)			
Blackpool	2	Stockport	1
Brentford	1	Bournemouth	0
Bristol City	3	Crewe	0
Burnley	2	Bristol Rovers	2
Bury	2	Notts County	0
Chesterfield	1	Plymouth	2
Gillingham	2	Peterborough	1
Luton	5	Preston	1
Rotherham	0	Wrexham	0
Shrewsbury	1	Millwall	1
Walsall	1	York	1
Wycombe	0	Watford	0

Brentford	31	16	11	4	49	29	59
Luton Town	30	16	7	7	54	33	55
Bristol City	32	14	9	9	52	34	51
Bury	29	14	9	6	43	29	51
Crewe	31	16	2	13	42	36	50
Stockport	30	13	9	8	43	34	48
Millwall	32	13	9	10	41	41	48
Burnley	33	13	8	12	47	38	47
Chesterfield	30	13	8	9	27	23	47
Walsall	31	13	7	11	37	33	46
Wrexham	29	11	13	5	36	31	46
Watford	29	10	16	3	29	21	46
Blackpool	31	10	12	9	40	33	42
Bournemouth	35	11	9	15	31	37	42
Gillingham	32	11	8	13	37	42	41
Shrewsbury	33	10	10	13	43	52	40
Plymouth	32	9	12	11	37	45	39
Preston	33	11	6	16	33	43	39
Bristol Rovers	32	9	11	12	34	36	38
York	32	9	7	16	33	51	34
Peterborough	32	7	11	14	44	55	32
Wycombe	31	8	7	16	29	43	31
Notts County	32	5	10	17	23	42	25
Rotherham	32	4	11	17	25	48	23

Division 3

Rochdale	0	Hereford	0
Scunthorpe	0	Chester	2
Torquay	1	Mansfield	2
(Played midweek)			
Barnet	2	Fulham	2
Brighton	3	Swansea	2
Cardiff	2	Hartlepool	0
Chester	1	Mansfield	0
Exeter	3	Darlington	2
Lincoln	3	Hereford	3
Northampton	2	Doncaster	0
Scarborough	2	Rochdale	2
Scunthorpe	2	Colchester	1
Torquay	1	Hull	1
Wigan	5	Leyton Orient	1

Carlisle	32	19	8	5	49	29	65
Fulham	34	19	7	8	58	34	64
Wigan	32	19	6	7	60	37	63
Swansea	35	16	6	13	46	40	54
Cambridge United	33	16	6	11	44	43	54
Colchester	34	12	16	6	49	36	52
Chester	33	14	10	9	39	31	52
Northampton	33	14	8	11	53	35	50
Cardiff	33	15	5	13	42	40	50
Scarborough	34	12	13	9	48	43	49
Lincoln	34	12	10	12	49	55	46
Mansfield	34	11	13	10	37	34	46
Hull	33	10	14	9	31	34	44
Torquay	33	12	7	14	34	37	43
Scunthorpe	32	12	5	15	45	50	41
Leyton Orient	35	10	11	14	32	38	41
Rochdale	33	8	15	10	38	41	39
Barnet	32	8	14	10	32	33	38
Hartlepool	34	10	7	17	37	51	37
Hereford	35	9	9	17	39	52	36
Exeter	34	9	8	17	32	48	35
Darlington	33	9	7	17	47	61	34
Doncaster	33	8	6	19	34	57	30
Brighton	34	8	7	19	39	55	29

(Brighton deducted 2 points due to pitch invasion)

League Cup

Semi Final, first leg

Leicester	0	Wimbledon	0

FRANCE

Metz	2	Monaco	0
Bastia	2	Nancy	0
Paris SG	1	Guingamp	1
Bordeaux	4	Marseille	0
Lille	2	Strasbourg	4
Nice	1	Caen	1
Le Havre	0	Cannes	0
Auxerre	0	Montpellier	2
Lyon	0	Lens	0
Rennes	0	Nantes	1

Monaco	27	16	7	4	48	22	55
Paris-SG	27	13	10	4	39	21	49
Bastia	26	14	6	6	38	26	48
Strasbourg	27	15	1	11	39	36	46
Bordeaux	27	12	9	6	43	29	45
Nantes	27	10	12	5	45	26	42
Auxerre	27	11	9	7	32	21	42
Metz	27	11	9	7	30	23	42
Marseille	27	9	10	8	30	27	37
Lyon	27	9	10	8	35	39	37
Guingamp	27	8	10	9	23	25	34
Montpellier	27	7	11	9	24	27	32
Rennes	27	9	5	13	30	38	32
Cannes	27	7	10	10	16	25	31
Lens	27	8	6	13	29	41	30
Lille	27	7	9	11	27	43	30
Le Havre	27	6	10	11	24	32	28
Caen	26	4	10	12	22	33	22
Nancy	27	5	7	15	22	36	22
Nice	27	4	7	16	22	48	19

GERMANY

Hansa Rostock	0	Werder Bremen	1
VfB Stuttgart	1	Karlsruhe	0
Bor. Moenchenglad	0	Schalke	0
Bochum	1	Bayern Munich	1
Bayer Leverkusen	1	Duisburg	0
1860 Munich	2	Cologne	1
Freiburg	0	Hamburg	4
Fortuna Duesseldorf	2	Borussia Dortmund	0
St Pauli	2	Arminia Bielefeld	3

HOLLAND

RKC Waalwijk	3	NEC Nijmegen	1
Utrecht	0	Sparta Rotterdam	1
Volendam	2	Fortuna Sittard	0
Vitesse Arnhem	6	Groningen	1
Ajax Amsterdam	3	Feyenoord	0
NAC Breda	2	Heerenveen	2
Roda JC Kerkrade	2	Willem II Tilburg	1
PSV Eindhoven	2	AZ Alkmaar	1
Graafschap Doet	1	Twente Enschede	2

PSV Eindhoven	22	16	3	3	62	16	51
Feyenoord	22	15	3	4	38	24	48
Twente Enschede	22	14	4	4	36	17	46
Vitesse Arnhem	22	11	6	5	39	24	39
Ajax Amsterdam	22	9	9	4	29	19	36
Roda JC Kerkrade	22	10	6	6	30	27	36
Graafschap Doetinchem	22	10	3	9	34	32	33
Heerenveen	22	7	10	5	35	30	31
NAC Breda	22	8	5	9	28	35	29
Willem II Tilburg	22	7	4	11	26	35	25
Volendam	22	6	7	9	23	32	25
Sparta Rotterdam	22	7	3	12	25	31	24
Utrecht	22	4	10	8	26	31	22
Fortuna Sittard	22	4	10	8	19	34	22
AZ Alkmaar	22	5	4	13	18	27	19
4HKC Waalwijk	22	4	7	11	22	35	19
Groningen	22	4	7	11	24	44	19
NEC Nijmegen	22	3	7	12	22	43	16

ITALY

Serie A

Bologna	0	Udinese	0
Cagliari	3	Verona	2
Fiorentina	1	Juventus	1
Inter	2	Atalanta	0
Napoli	1	Sampdoria	1
Perugia	1	Milan	0
Roma	2	Reggiana	2
Vicenza	1	Piacenza	1

Juventus	21	11	8	2	29	15	41
Sampdoria	21	10	6	5	42	28	36
Inter	21	8	10	3	30	23	34
Bologna	21	9	5	7	32	25	32
Vicenza	21	8	7	6	32	26	31
Roma	21	8	7	6	32	26	31
Parma	20	8	7	5	19	16	31
Atalanta	21	8	7	6	27	25	31
Napoli	21	7	8	6	25	28	29
Fiorentina	21	6	10	2	29	23	28
Milan	21	8	4	9	29	27	28
Lazio	20	7	6	7	24	22	27
Udinese	21	7	6	8	28	29	27
Piacenza	21	5	9	7	18	25	24
Perugia	21	6	4	11	25	38	22
Cagliari	21	4	7	10	23	35	19
Verona	21	4	5	12	25	42	17
Reggiana	21	1	10	10	18	34	13

Serie B

Brescia	2	Pescara	0
C.Sangro	1	Palermo	0
Chievo	5	Cosenza	2
Genoa	1	Cesena	0
Lecce	2	Venezia	2
Padova	0	Foggia	0
Ravenna	4	Cremonese	0
Reggina	2	Bari	2
Salernitana	1	Lucchese	0
Torino	0	Empoli	1

Lecce	23	11	8	4	36	27	41
Pescara	23	11	7	5	33	20	40
Brescia	23	11	7	5	30	21	40
Torino	23	10	7	6	32	24	37
Genoa	23	8	11	4	32	16	35
Bari	23	7	13	3	30	20	34
Ravenna	23	10	7	6	31	24	34
Empoli	23	9	7	7	25	26	34
Chievo	23	7	11	5	26	24	32
Foggia	23	8	8	7	24	25	32
Padova	23	5	11	7	23	28	26
Salernitana	23	6	8	9	13	23	26
Venezia	23	5	10	8	27	27	25
C.Sangro	23	7	4	12	15	28	25
Palermo	23	4	12	7	24	29	24
Reggina	23	5	9	9	22	29	24
Lucchese	23	5	9	9	16	23	24
Cosenza	23	5	8	10	24	31	23
Cesena	23	4	10	9	19	24	22
Cremonese	23	5	7	11	14	27	22

Around the Globe

Goalie hero for Bordeaux

Bordeaux and Strasbourg reached the French league cup final last week, both for the first time. Bordeaux beat Montpellier 7-6 on penalties after 120 minutes of play produced a 2-2 deadlock, as Strasbourg ousted league leaders Monaco 2-1.

David Zitelli was Strasbourg's hero, hitting the opener on the stroke of half time in driving sleet, his low free kick eluding Fabien Barthez in the Monaco goal. It was Zitelli's fourth goal in the competition this season.

Although Brazilian striker Sonny Anderson equalised for Monaco early in the second half, Zitelli struck again to secure a shock win for the Alsatian side.

Bordeaux, riding high in the league this season, twice took the lead against Montpellier.

Stephane Ziani netted in the 50th only for Ibrahim Bakayoko to equalise 15 minutes later.

Kaba Diawara headed Bordeaux in front again five minutes into extra time and then hit the bar, but Laurent Robert made it all square with 12 minutes remaining to force the spot-kick drama.

Bordeaux'sBelgian keeper Gilbert Bodart performed heroics in the shootout, saving three kicks and then blasting the winner himself.

BAGGIO READY TO LEAVE MILAN

Italian international Roberto Baggio said last week that he was virtually ready to quit former Italian champions AC Milan after falling out with new coach Arrigo Sacchi.

Baggio, who turned 30 on Wednesday, said he was unhappy with Sacchi's decision to leave him out of the side which beat Bologna 2-0.

"It's no fun being on the bench," said Baggio, who has spent much of a disappointing season on the first team fringes.

"I've not discussed things yet with the management but certain situations are getting me down and I've had enough. It's too late to find a solution.

"I will honour my engagements through to June and then we'll see. If Sacchi tells me to stay on the bench, I shall respect his decision," Baggio told reporters after training.

"It's a pity. I thought things would have turned out differently with his return."

Sacchi, who returned to Milan for a second spell in charge after resigning as Italian coach in November, would only say that "I always make the decisions which best suit the team as a whole."

Roberto Baggio: As expected, with Sacchi's arrival, he wants to leave Milan.

Penalty Shoot out option approved

A revolutionary plan to hold the penalty shoot-out before playing extra time if a match is level after 90 minutes was approved by FIFA's referees' committee in Zurich, Switzerland last week.

After a two-day meeting the referees' committee approved the idea which does not need the assent of the game's law-making body, the International Board.

FIFA spokesman Andreas Herren said, "This decision comes under FIFA regulations for competitions. So if a national association wants to organise its cup competition using this method they are free to do so. UEFA, for example, could introduce this at the next European championship."

In other wide ranging proposals to make the game more attractive, the referees' committee have told FIFA that players scoring a goal by deliberate handball should be sent off, that the back-pass rule should be extended to all parts of the body and that the goalkeeper should be allowed to move along his line when facing a penalty.

Some of the items will be discussed when the International Board meets in Belfast, Northern Ireland on March 1.

Beckenbauer favoured for post

Joao Havelange, the president of FIFA, said last week that Franz Beckenbauer would appear to be an ideal candidate to succeed him in his post in 1998.

The 80-year-old Brazilian, FIFA chief for 23 years, announced last December he would not stand for another term after the World Cup in France next year.

However, he is known to have strained relations with Lennart Johansson, the President of the European body UEFA, who is the leading candidate at the moment.

"He is the only candidate at the moment," was the lukewarm response by Havelange to Johansson's candidacy.

Havelange, though, was effusive about Beckenbauer, currently President of UEFA Cup holders Bayern Munich, standing as a candidate.

"Beckenbauer was a great player, a wonderful coach, a successful businessman and president of one of the great footballing powers in Europe. So why shouldn't he be a candidate as he has all the requirements to do the job."

However there will be a great deal of lobbying before the vote next year.

WORLD RESULTS & TABLES *Continued...*

SCOTLAND

Premier Division

Dunfermline	3	Aberdeen	0
Hearts	3	Raith	2
Kilmarnock	2	Dundee United	3
Motherwell	0	Celtic	1
Rangers	3	Hibernian	1

Rangers	27	21	4	2	69	22	67
Celtic	27	19	3	5	64	25	60
Dundee United	27	13	7	7	37	23	46
Hearts	28	11	8	9	40	37	41
Aberdeen	28	9	9	10	38	44	36
Dunfermline	27	10	5	12	41	51	35
Motherwell	28	7	7	14	33	49	28
Hibernian	27	6	7	14	27	46	25
Kilmarnock	27	7	3	17	31	53	24
Raith	28	5	5	18	24	54	20

DIVISION 1

Airdrie	1	East Fife	1
Clydebank	1	Stirling	2
Dundee	1	Greenock Morton	0
Falkirk	2	Partick	1
St Mirren	2	St Johnstone	1

St Johnstone	27	17	6	4	58	19	57
Dundee	27	13	8	6	38	24	47
St Mirren	27	13	6	8	39	33	45
Partick	27	10	11	6	42	29	41
Airdrie	26	9	13	4	39	27	40
Falkirk	25	10	7	8	25	23	37
Greenock Morton	26	9	6	11	30	28	33
Stirling	27	7	7	13	35	49	28
Clydebank	27	6	6	15	23	41	24
East Fife	27	1	6	20	18	74	9

DIVISION 2

Berwick	1	Stenhousemuir	0
Brechin	1	Ayr	1
Hamilton	4	Clyde	0
Queen of South	4	Dumbarton	0
Stranraer	1	Livingston	1

DIVISION 3

Alloa	0	Arbroath	2
Cowdenbeath	0	Montrose	1
Inverness Thistle	1	Forfar	1

DIVISION 2

Ayr	26	18	4	4	46	25	58
Livingston	25	14	8	3	42	24	50
Hamilton	24	14	5	5	54	23	47
Clyde	25	9	8	8	29	29	35
Stenhousemuir	26	9	7	10	35	27	34
Queen of South	26	8	6	12	40	49	30
Stranraer	25	7	7	11	23	33	28
Brechin	24	5	10	9	26	32	25
Dumbarton	25	5	6	14	28	50	21
Berwick	26	3	7	16	26	57	16

DIVISION 3

Inverness Thistle	25	16	6	3	49	25	54
Forfar	25	12	7	6	49	31	43
Ross County	25	13	4	8	41	33	43
Montrose	26	12	3	11	38	42	39
Alloa	23	10	5	8	33	33	35
Albion	25	9	8	8	32	32	35
Cowdenbeath	26	8	5	13	29	34	29
Queen's Park	25	6	8	11	33	39	26
Arbroath	25	5	8	12	21	35	23
East Stirling	25	4	6	15	25	46	18

SPAIN

Real Sociedad	2	Barcelona	0
Real Betis	1	Celta Vigo	1
Tenerife	2	Valencia	1
Oviedo	0	Extremadura	0
Racing Santander	2	Valladolid	0
Zaragoza	5	Sporting Gijon	0
Rayo Vallecano	1	Real Madrid	0
Atletico Madrid	2	Logrones	0
Hercules	1	Deportivo Coruna	3
Espanyol	0	Athletic Bilbao	2
Compostela	2	Sevilla	0

(Played midweek)

Sevilla	1	Logrones	4
Sporting Gijon	2	Tenerife	1
Barcelona	4	Zaragoza	1
Valladolid	3	Real Sociedad	0
Athletic Bilbao	2	Racing Santander	2
Extremadura	3	Espanyol	0
Real Madrid	6	Oviedo	1
Celta Vigo	2	Rayo Vallecano	0
Hercules	0	Atletico Madrid	2

Real Madrid	26	17	8	1	57	22	59
Barcelona	26	16	5	5	67	33	53
Real Betis	24	13	8	3	49	24	47
Atletico Madrid	25	13	7	5	48	29	46
Deportivo Coruna	25	11	11	3	35	19	44
Real Sociedad	26	13	5	8	35	29	44
Athletic Bilbao	26	10	10	6	46	36	40
Valladolid	26	11	7	8	34	30	40
Racing Santander	26	9	11	6	29	25	38
Tenerife	24	10	6	8	40	26	36
Valencia	25	9	6	10	33	32	33
Celta Vigo	26	8	9	9	30	32	33
Oviedo	26	7	8	11	30	37	29
Compostela	25	7	7	11	25	43	28
Rayo Vallecano	25	7	6	12	25	35	27
Sporting Gijon	24	6	8	10	23	33	26
Espanyol	26	7	5	14	29	40	26
Zaragoza	26	5	10	11	32	44	25
Logrones	26	7	4	15	22	52	25
Extremadura	26	5	8	13	18	39	23
Sevilla	25	6	3	16	21	40	21
Hercules	26	5	4	17	22	51	19

Note: Two teams qualify for the European Cup, four

PORTUGAL

Belenenses	1	Gil Vicente	1
Braga	2	Setubal	1
Benfica	1	Uniao Leiria	0
Porto	1	Salgueiros	2
Leca	1	Estrela Amadora	1
Rio Ave	0	Boavista	0
Farense	3	Espinho	1
Guimaraes	4	Chaves	1

Porto	21	18	2	1	51	12	56
Benfica	21	13	4	4	36	12	43
Sporting	20	12	5	3	31	10	41
Guimaraes	21	10	4	7	35	27	34
Braga	21	9	7	5	27	30	34
Estrela Amadora	21	8	7	6	24	20	31
Salgueiros	21	7	7	7	27	31	28
Espinho	21	8	4	9	20	28	28
Chaves	21	7	6	8	25	33	27
Farense	21	6	8	7	19	20	26
Setubal	21	6	7	8	24	29	25
Belenenses	21	6	7	8	26	35	25
Maritimo	20	6	6	8	23	29	24
Leca	21	6	6	9	24	27	24
Boavista	21	4	11	6	26	26	23
Uniao Leiria	21	4	4	13	15	33	16
Rio Ave	21	3	5	13	20	33	14
Gil Vicente	21	2	6	13	19	37	12

Ciro Ferrara: Aggressive defender playing in Serie A for Juventus, and also an Italian international.

TOPPER BILL TURNER CUP

TOPPER BILL TURNER CUP

TOPPER BILL TURNER CUP

HISTORY MAKING IN FNQ

By DAMIAN O'SULLIVAN

Peninsula Soccer coach Damian O'Sullivan who is a teacher at St Monica's believes many students are enthusiastic about the prospect of playing in a regional competition.

Few could doubt the development of womens Soccer in Queensland in recent years. The State supplies a number of players to national squads at various levels from juniors through to the full international team.

Like in other states several of these stars had their first taste of Soccer in a country area.

Since hearing of St Monica's Girls School in Cairns taking the bold step to enter the Topper Bill Turner Cup, ABSW decided to dig a little deeper into girls soccer activities there.

Far North Queensland has further embraced Soccer through schools involvement in the 'Bill Turner Cup'. The Peninsula region spans from the Torrest Strait through to Tully and West beyond Atherton.

Schoolgirls involvement in Soccer in North Queensland is increasing due to more opportunities for girls to play in with clubs and at school. There appears to be talent in the ranks of schoolgirls Soccer with the Peninsula region representative team winning the 1995 Queensland Secondary Schools Soccer championship.

Some of the outstanding talent from the team gained selection in the Queensland team. Players such as Sarah Chandler, Jenna McGrath, Sheree Casella, Michelle McKenzie, Alaina Geyshon and Captain Joanne Butland have great futures in the game. Joanne is now with the Queensland Academy of Sport.

Topper Bill Turner Cup is proving to be a competition that caters for all schools. It gives schools such as Tully the opportunity to participate in the competition and in Tully's case winning the regional finals in the Cup. Coach Lyn-Ann Chandler was very pleased with their performance in their first year of playing in the cup.

St. Monicas, a Catholic Secondary College for girls, will in 1997 be the first all girls school to participate in the Topper Bill Turner Cup in Queensland. Sisters of Mercy began to work in the school from 1891 and maintain some involvement in the College on the staff and on the College Board.

Parents are keen for the girls to participate in any Code of Football it seems, as the girls have already formed an Australian Rules team and Rugby Union team," according to O'Sullivan. "I'm sure the Topper Bill Turner Cup Competition will be instrumental in developing our younger players in the schools throughout the region."

The 1996 Bill Turner Cup Equal Third placed Kooringal High of Wagga Wagga. Back row L to R: T. Cutler, S. Hersom, G. Case, L. Harbon, D. Wallace, D. Pieper, M. Binney, D. Mottley, J. Kaye. Front row: K. Ireland coach, G. Dunn, S. Chambers, D. Wright captain, L. Myers, J. Geale, T. Bokeyar, H. Sivasothy, D. Dunn manager.

WOMEN'S WRITES

BY JANENE MAR

AUSTRALIA TAKES ON OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALISTS

All attention now turns to the international scene with the arrival of the legendary Team USA to our shores.

Never before has a Women's side of such calibre played in Australia, and they don't come any better than USA. Olympic champions, former World Cup Champions, and generally regarded worldwide as the most professional outfit, setting international standards. The Americans' support and promotion of the women's game is also a major contributing factor to the enormous growth of the sport across the globe.

Tonight (Tuesday) they arrive to take on the Australians in the Ram Cup, sponsored by Ram Sportswear, a three test match series to be contested in Melbourne, Bathurst and Canberra. Australia holds the honour of being the first nation to take on the champions since the Olympic Games.

Included in the US 18-member team are no less than nine Olympic gold medallists. Mia Hamm, three-time US Player of the Year and regarded as the best all-round player in the world is joined by other big names Julie Foudy, Kristine Lilly, Tiffeny Milbrett, Tiffany Roberts, Tisha Venturini, Brandi Chastain, Briana Scurry and Cindy Parlow. Five of the remaining US players were part of the Olympic squad which trained full-time for the six months prior to the Games.

Of course this is also a rare opportunity for the local sporting public to witness their own national team in action on home soil. Assistant national coaches Greg Brown and Jeff Olver, taking charge of the side for this event, named a 20-member squad last week which will be cut back to eighteen before the series, the group assembling in Melbourne yesterday in preparation.

Hoping to make their international debut are defenders Louisa Bisby (VIC) and Joanne Powell (NNSW) and midfielder Amy Taylor (ACT). Lisa Dunne is selected for the first time since pre-World Cup preparations, with keeper Debra Carlin celebrating a return after several years. Twelve of this squad made the memorable tour to the US last year immediately prior to the Olympics which included two 1-2 losses to the mighty Americans.

The Ram Cup can also be seen on television with ABC-TV coming to the party. One hour highlights packages can be viewed on Mondays 3 and 10 March, immediately following the popular English Premier programme which starts at 10.30pm.

Team USA land at Sydney airport tonight at 10.30pm, and spend a day in the Olympic city before flying to Melbourne.

Lisa Casagrande; Courtesy of 'Northern Star' Lismore. Lisa is in Australian squad for series against USA.

RAM CUP

AUSTRALIA v USA 3-TEST MATCH SERIES

Friday 28 February — 6.00pm

Bob Jane Stadium, Albert Road Drive, Albert Park, MELBOURNE

Sunday 2 March — 6.00pm

Carrington Park — BATHURST, NSW.

2.15pm Mitchell Shield Final

3.30pm Mitchell Cup Final

Wednesday 5 March — 7.00pm

Bruce Stadium — CANBERRA

WOMEN'S WRITES

BY JANENE MAR

RAM SPORTSWEAR CUP

AUSTRALIAN SQUAD

To be reduced to an 18-member team

Louisa Bisby	VIC
Sharon Black	SA
Katrina Boyd	NSW
Debra Carlin	NNSW
Lisa Casagrande	NNSW
Lizzy Claydon	WA
Lisa Dunne	QLD
Sonia Gegenhuber	QLD
Sunni Hughes	NNSW/Japan
Belinda Kitching	QLD
Joanne Peters	NSW
Joanne Powell	NNSW
Kim Revell	QLD
Cheryl Salisbury	WA/Japan
Bridgette Starr	NNSW
Kristyn Swaffer	SA
Amy Taylor	ACT
Tammie Thornton	QLD
Amy Wilson	ACT
Shelley Youman	NNSW
Coach	Greg Brown/Jeff Olver

Tammy Thornton QLD.

USA TEAM

Position	Caps/Goals
Justi Baumgardt M	
Brandi Chastain* D	40/9
Robin Confer F	1/0
Lorrie Fair D	11/0
Danielle Fotopoulos F	
Julie Foudy* M	96/17
Mia Hamm* M	120/63
Debbie Keller F	9/1
Kristine Lilly* M	
121/46	
Tiffeny Milbrett* F	65/25
Tracy Noonan GK	2/0
Cindy Parlow* F	20/8
Christie Pearce M	
Tammy Pearman M	4/1
Tiffany Roberts* M	55/6
Briana Scurry* GK	44/0
Thori Staples D	43/0
Tisha Venturini* M	71/26

Coach - Tony DiCicco

* = Olympic gold medallist

USA in Olympic Final 1996 against China

ANSETT AUSTRALIA SUMMER SERIES

National League Round Five: South Conference

SASI BREAKS SLUMBER TO SCORE DOUBLE

SA Sports Institute (Thomas 62, Black 65) 2 ITC Victoria 0

SASI extended their lead at the top of the Ansett Australia national league South Conference last Friday night at Hindmarsh Stadium with an extraordinary 2-0 win over Victoria ITC.

Played in Adelaide's heatwave conditions, the match was broadcast live by local radio station Coast-FM, a first in league history. Victoria were keen to build on their last fine performance against SASI and had the better of possession for the majority of the match, Cheryl Salisbury and Louisa Bisby the main engineers building up the attacks. But clear shooting opportunities close to goal were not in abundance, the visitors finding it hard to get past a Kristyn Swaffer-led SASI defence.

SASI looked unusually flat and out of sorts, and playmaker Sharon Black received an early bad knock to her previously injured ankle, requiring sideline treatment for nine minutes before coming back to the action.

The second half resumed with Victoria still maintaining the upper hand. But quarter of an hour later, a sensational turning point which caught everyone off guard. SASI suddenly sprung to life for a swashbuckling five minute period, scoring two goals in the process, enough to snatch the victory.

A fantastic ball from deep on the left split the Victorian defence to fall for the perfectly positioned Natalie Thomas unmarked in front of goal in the 62nd minute. Thomas' effort from 15 metres was an agonisingly slow shot, but eventually found its way over the line to take a 1-0 lead.

SA:
Trimboli: Holland, Swaffer, Winn, Forby, Prince (Busuttil 87), Morris (Reeves 89), Thomas, Black (Ruotolo 87), Moore, Halfpenny.

☆ ☆ ☆

VIC:
Bracken, Bisby, Carey, Hamilton (Angelucci 76), Digiammarco, Walker, Terek, Nolan, Salisbury, Barbieri, Zacharopoulos (Rea 87).

The league top scorer Black added another three minutes later, a similar build up finding her with just the keeper to beat. Black's low drive deceived Victorian custodian Emma Bracken and crept under her outstretched body.

Just as quickly as SASI had turned on the fireworks, with a two goal buffer now in their grasp, they slipped back into first gear and watched as Salisbury's 35 metre strike rocked against the crossbar for Victoria.

The home side had the chance to go further ahead, awarded a penalty as Black was taken out on the edge of the box. But Black's attempt from the spot only hit the post.

Victoria made a last ditch attempt, creating three dangerous opportunities in the dying minutes and should have pulled at least one back.

SHARON BLACK: Celebrated selection in Australian team with second goal for SASI.

VISITORS SHARE POINTS

VISITORS SHARE POINTS

ITC Victoria (Salisbury 59) 1 ACT Academy of Sport (Wilson 73) 1

Points were shared in the battle for second place in the Saturday afternoon clash between Victoria and ACTAS, as Adelaide still sweltered.

ACT had the edge in the first half but were unable to find the net despite creating several dangerous opportunities. Victoria found the going tougher in attack, ACT's Traci Barlett cleaning up at the back and Amy Taylor a constant menace to playmaker Cheryl Salisbury in the centre of the park.

In the second half as players were tiring, the game was brought back to life with a sensational goal from Victoria. An indirect free-kick from 20 metres directly in front of goal was beautifully struck by Salisbury high into the net giving the keeper no chance and her team the 1-0 lead in the 59th minute.

Boosted by the goal, Victoria got their second wind, were quicker to shut down their opponents and became more involved in the play.

VIC:
Bracken, Bisby, Carey, Digiammarco, Hamilton (McEvoy 76), Walker, Terek, Nolan (Rea 40), Salisbury, Barbieri, Zacharopoulos (Angelucci 54).

ACT:
Read, Bartlett, Butler, P Hepperlin, D Hepperlin, Wilson, Foxhill, Channing, Taylor, Bean, Doyle.

But ACT fought on and were rewarded in the 73rd minute with the equaliser. A good build up on the right ended with a great ball to the unmarked Amy Wilson waiting at the far post, her first time drive finding the target past the diving keeper.

ACT finished the game the stronger and created three good chances in the closing minutes. Another Wilson drive was fingertipped over the bar by keeper Emma Bracken, before a Taylor effort went skyward. Cindy Doyle was no luckier, her shot from the left striking the underside of the crossbar and out.

CINDY DOYLE: Unlucky with her strike.

SA's SOCCER WOMEN SUFFER FIRST DEFEAT

Front-runners South Australia suffered their first women's national soccer league defeat here today when beaten 2-0 by a committed ACT side.

The ACT took advantage of the absence from the SA side of Australian midfielder Sharon Black which resulted in a reshuffle of the young side.

The ACT's sustained attack eventually wore down the SA defence, scoring goals in the space of two minutes midway through the first half.

Amy Wilson opened with a reflex shot from the edge of the six-yard box in the 27th minute and was followed by Amy Taylor, who drove in a close range shot after a defensive mix-up.

The win puts ACT into second position going into the playoffs.

SOUTH AMERICA

— COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHART IN CHILE —

LIBERTADORES CUP

DRAW IN PERU

Three times Peruvian champions Sporting Cristal and runners-up Alianza Lima drew 0-0 in a game for the Libertadores Cup group 4 that includes Brazilian clubs Cruzeiro and Gremio.

The match, played at Lima's National Stadium attracted 23,000 spectators who at the end of the game, booed players from both sides.

Meanwhile, in Belho Horizonte, Gremio scored an important 2-1 away victory over Cruzeiro and lead the group with three points.

Ze Alcino opened the score for Gremio in the 10th minute but Aliton, after a brilliant move from fellow striker Palinha, equalised for the home team in the 23rd.

Gremio's winner came in the 19th minute of the second half when Emerson netted from inside the box.

Next matches for group 4 will be Aliana Lima vs Cruzeiro, today Tuesdays and Sporting Cristal vs Cruzeiro on Friday 28. Both games will be played at Lima's national stadium.

Gremio: Holders of the Liberdores Cup are drawn in Group 4 this season.

Cruzeiro play two games in one night

Brazilian Cruzeiro played two official matches in one night as it attempted to battle its way through a daunting fixture list.

Cruzeiro faced Vila Nova in the Minas Gerais championship, a Brazilian regional competition, at the Mineirao stadium in Belo Horizonte.

Less than half an hour later, Cruzeiro took the field for its opening match in the Libertadores Cup, South America's top club competition, at home to fellow Brazilians, Gremio.

Cruzeiro opted to field its reserve team in the first game but consequently had only five substitutes for the main match instead of the permitted seven.

It gleaned only one point from the evening, drawing 4-4 with Vila Novaand then losing 2-1 to Gremio in their first round, group four match in the Libertadores.

ROMARIO IS BACK IN THE BRAZILIAN NATIONAL TEAM

Brazilian star striker Romario has been included in Mario Zagallo's national team, which will face Poland in a friendly international to be played, tomorrow Wednesday, in Rio de Janeiro.

"With Romario and Ronaldo we will have the most powerful attacking line in the world," said Zagallo during a press conference held in Rio.

The match against Poland will be part of Brazil's build-up preparation for the Copa America, the major championship at nations level in South America, to be held in Bolivia, next June.

The Brazilian squad is:

Goalkeepers:
Carlos Germano (Vasco Da Gama) and Clemer (Portuguesa de Desportes).

Defenders:
Aldair (AC Roma, Italy), Ceber (Palmeiras), Celio Silva (Portuguesa de Desportes), Bordon (Sao Paulo), Caft (Palmeiras), Pimentel (Vasco Da Gama), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid, Spain) and Ze Foberto (Portuguesa de Desportes).

Midfielders:
Mauro Silva (Deportivo La Coruna, Spain), Doriva (Atletico Mineiro), Marcelinho Paulista (Botafogo), Leonardo (Paris Saint Germain, France), Juninho (Middlesborough, England), Emerson (Gremio) and Denilson (Sao Paulo).

Strikers:
Romario (Flamengo), Ronaldo (Barcelona, Spain), Giovanni (Barcelona, Spain), Paulo Nunes (Gremio) and Oseas (Atletico Panaerense).

The most probable team to face Poland could be: Carlos Germano; Cafu, Aldair, Cleber, Roberto Carlos; Mauro Silva, Juninho, Leonardo, Giovanni; Romario and Ronaldo.

BOCA JUNIORS

Boca Juniors, the most popular club in Argentina, now under the guidance of Hector Veira, want to form a "dream team" with the inclusion of Colombian international striker Faustino Asprilla, who plays for Newcastle United in England and goalkeeper Faryd Mondragon who plays for Independiente of Argentina.

Among others, Boca's president Maruicio Macri is interested in the services of Inter Milan defender Javier Zanetti and former Argentine international striker Claudio Paul Caniggia.

Meanwhile Hector Veira is trying to sign local talented players like defender Claudio Husain from Velez Sarsfield and striker Martin Palermo from Estudiantes of La Plata.

Veira, who is not satisfied with goalkeeper Carlos Navarro Montoya's replacement Sandro Guzman from Velez Sarsfield and Roberto Abbondancieri from Rosario Central is pushing for Faryd Mondragon. But the Colombian custodian has a two year contract with Independiente and Cesar Luis Menoti the coach of the "red devils", is reluctant to let Mondragon go.

The other option for Hector Veira is San Lorenzo's veteran goalkeeper Fernando Passet.

The list of possible new signings also includes Napoli's Argentine defender Roberto Ayala, Gabriel Schurrer who plays for Spanish club Racing Santander and Argentine international midfielder Christian Bassedas.

CHILEAN DERBY ENDED IN A DRAW

Chilean champions, Colo Colo and Universidad Catolica drew 2-2 in the opening match of the Libertadores Cup group 3, played at Santiago's National stadium in front of 35,000 spectators.

Chilean international striker Fernando Vergara opened the score for Colo Colo in the 9th minute with a header, but Catolica striker Luis Perez equalised in the 29th with a powerful cross-drive from 30 metres.

In the 62nd minute Catolica went 2-1 ahead when former Colo Colo defender Javier Margas beat goalkeeper Claudio Arbiza with a header, and Fernando Vergara scored with another header in the 76th for a final score of 2-2.

Colo Colo played with ten men from the 70th minute after referee Carlos Robles sent defender Juan Carlos Gonzalez off for a second yellow card.

Universidad Catolica will play their second match of group 3, today Tuesday, against Venezuelan runner-up Atletico Mineros at Catolica's San Carlos de Apoquindo stadium, while tomorrow, Wednesday, Colo Colo will face Mineros, on Thursday, at Colo Colo's Monumental stadium, Santiago.

Universidad Catolica:
Tapia, Romero, Parraguez, Garrido (Poli), Margas, Lepe, Pizarro, Lunari, Bisconti (Osorio), Acosa, Perez (Galaz).

Colo Colo:
Arbiza, Latin, Reyes, Gonzalez, Rojas, Emerson, Villaseca (Zambrano), Bariccioto (Salas), Espina, Vergara, Basay (Tudor).

Referee: Carlos Robles (Chile).

CHILEAN LEAGUE

Current Chilean champions, Colo Colo playing away, defeated Coquimbo Unido, 2-1, in the opening round of the Chilean First Division league First Phase and are joint leaders with arch-rivals Universidad of Chile and Universidad Catolica.

Colo Colo's goals came from striker Fernando Vergara in the 22nd minute and former Argentine international midfielder Marrelo Espina in the 40th. Coquimbo replied through Cabello with a free kick from 25 metres in the 81st.

Colo Colo: Ramirez, Fernandez, Reyes, Gonzalez, Francisco Rojas, Emerson, Munoz, Espina, Barticciotto, Bsay (Tapia), Verjara (Zambrano).

Coquimbo Unido:
Cornez, Cardens (Madrid), Fuentes, Lenci, Biehl, Rotulo, Cabello, Valladares, Cas Rojas, Ojeda, Sacone (Caro).

Meanwhile, Universidad Catolica beat Palestino 3-0 with goals from their Argentine strikers David Bisconti (twice) and Alberto Acosta.

Other results: Union Espanola 3 Audax Italiano 2, Universidad de Chile 3 La Serrena 2, Concepcion 0 Huachipato 0, Santiago Wanderers 1 Cobreloa 1, Antofagasta 1 Temuco 3, Osorno 1 Puerto Montt 1.

Standings: Colo Colo, Universidad of Chile, Universidad Catolica, Deportes Temuco and Union Espanola 3 points; Osorno, Puerto Montt, Concepcion, Huachipato, Santiago Wanderers and Cobreloa 1; Palestin, La Serena, Coquimbo Unido, Audax Italiano and Antofagasta 0.

BOLIVAR THRASHED ORIENTE PE ROLERO

Bolivian champions Bolivar defeated Oriente Petrolero 4-0 in the local derby of the Libertadores Cup group 1, played at Petrolero's Patria stadium, in front of only 5,000 spectators.

The other teams in group 1 are Paraguayan Cerro Porteno and Guarani. Argentine striker Vidal Gonzalez opened the account for Bolivar in the 31st minute with a short and powerful strike.

Bolivar went 2-0 ahead in the 47th through Miguel Mercado who then added the third in the 51st and veteran midfielder Carlos scored the fourth in the 58th with a 30 metres drive.

Oriente Petrolero:
L Fernandez, Escalante, Farah, Rivero, Paraba, Perudo, Britez (Martinelli), Mendoza (Pena), Buenaventura Ferreira, Diduch, Vaca (Roly Paniagua).

Bolivar:
Tomas N'Kono, Montano, Sandy, Ivan Castillo (Joao), Rimba, Soria, Borja, Ramiro Castillo, Sanchez, Vidal Gonzalez, Mercado (Flores).

Referee:
Juan Carlos Paniagua (Bolivia).

LEADERS IN GROUP 2 VELEZ SARSFIELD & EMELEC

Velez Sarsfield of Argentina and Emelec of Ecuador are joint leaders in group 2 after their respective 2-1 victories over Racing Club and Nacional.

In Quito, Emelec defeated compatriots Nacional, 2-1 with goals from Colombian striker Luis Escobar in the 25th minute and Argentine forward Ariel Graziani in the 85th.

Ecuadorean international striker Kleber Chala netted for nacional in the 74th minute.

Next games:
Wednesday 26th of February, in Quito Nacional (Ecuador) v Velez Sarsfield (Argentina). Thursday 27th of February, in Guayaquil Emelec (Ecuador) vs Racing Club (Argentina).

SOUTH AMERICAN U/20 CHAMPIONSHIP

Uruguayans Gustavo Munua, Marcelo Zalayeta, Christian Callejas and Andres Olivera; Chileans Paolo Vivar and Manuel Neira; Argentines Pablo Cesar Aimar, Juan Roman Riquelme, Walter Samuel, Leonardo Franco, Bernardo Romeo and Diego Placente; Brazilians Odair Hellmans, Mazolli de Oliveira (Athirson) and Bolzan Martins (Adailton); Paraguayan Cesar Ramirez and Venezuelan Daniel Ortega, the highest scorer, were the most outstanding players of the last edition of the South American U/20 championships recently played in the Northern cities of Iquique, La Serena and Coquimbo, in Chile.

The World champions, Argentina, guided by coach Jose Pekerman were the best team of the tournament while Paraguay were the surprise pack, Brazil a disappointment and Uruguay, one of the strongest favourites lacked power up front.

Nevertheless, the Uruguayans had the best goalkeeper of the series while striker Marcelo Zalayeta and the captain, midfielder Christian Callejas, were outstanding.

But for me, the player of the championship was Argentine midfielder Juan Roman Riquelme.

Mario Etchart team of the series:

Goalkeeper:
Gustavo Munua (Uruguay)

Defenders:
Odair (Brazil), Martin Rivas (Uruguay), Walter Samuel (Argentina), Athirson (Brazil).

Midfielder:
Andres Olivera (Uruguay), Esteban Canblasso (Argentina)

Strikers:
Marcelo Zalayeta (Uruguay), Manuel Neira (Chile), Cesar Ramirez (Paraguay)

Raith Rovers

BY STUART JONES

Ground:	Starks' Park
Address:	Pratt Street, Kirkcaldy KY1 1SA
Railway Station:	Kirkcaldy
Founded:	1883
Admitted to League:	1902
Ground Capacity:	9,200
Seats:	3,040
Pitch Size:	113 yd x 67 yd
Largest Gate:	31,306 v Hearts Scottish Cup 2nd Rd, 7 Feb 1953
Biggest Win:	10-1 v Coldstream Scottish Cup 2nd Rd, 13 Feb 1954
Heaviest Defeat:	2-11 v Morton Division 2, 18 March 1936
Nickname:	The Rovers
Colours:	Navy Blue, white trim
Honours:	League:
	First Division: 1992-93, 1994-95
	Division Two: 1907-08, 1909-10 (shared), 1937-38, 1948-49
	Scottish League Cup: 1994-95

History:

Raith started on Sands Brae in 1883. After a couple of fairly unsuccessful moves, including one ground being turned into a public park, in 1891 the club moved to Starks Park, a ground that had been used by most teams in the area at one stage or another. There is a story in the club's centenary book by John Lister that one game in 1887 saw a pitch invasion by rival fans. To get rid of them off the field a bull was let loose on the ground!

In 1902 Rovers became the first Fife club to join the League. By 1910 the team were in Division One, although the ground was not up to scratch. In 1911 part of the grandstand blew down and in 1918 it was ruined by fire. In 1929 the club were relegated and fell upon hard times. In 1948 the Rovers could only clear its debts by selling their best players. The company associated with Raith were reorganised and this bought success back onto the pitch with it.

One of the club's great hours of success was their recent League Cup success. Starks Park remains the only rhyming name of any British League ground.

Southern League - Division 1

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Southampton	34	22	6	6	75	30	50
Tottenham Hotspur	34	16	11	7	54	37	43
Bristol Rovers	34	17	8	9	66	42	42
Portsmouth	34	17	8	9	41	38	42
Queens Park Rangers	34	15	11	8	53	37	41
Reading	34	14	13	7	48	35	41
Millwall	34	16	8	10	64	42	40
Luton Town	34	14	12	8	38	33	40
Plymouth Argyle	34	13	10	11	44	34	36
Swindon Town	34	10	11	13	30	42	31
Fulham	34	9	12	13	33	34	30
West Ham United	34	10	7	17	38	43	27
Brentford	34	9	9	16	34	48	27
Wellingborough	34	11	5	18	44	63	27
Northampton Town	34	10	7	17	36	69	27
New Brompton	34	6	13	15	26	43	25
Brighton & Hove Albion	34	6	12	16	45	79	24
Kettering	34	6	7	21	30	78	19

Second Division

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Watford	20	18	2	0	70	15	38
Portsmouth (Res)	20	15	2	3	85	25	32
Millwall (Res)	20	9	4	7	35	39	22
Southampton (Res)	20	9	3	8	59	35	21
Grays United	20	9	3	8	25	55	21
Fulham (Res)	20	8	4	8	40	34	20
Swindon Town (Res)	20	8	3	9	50	44	19
Reading (Res)	20	8	2	10	43	42	18
Wycombe Wanderers	20	5	5	10	29	64	15
Southall	20	4	2	14	25	62	10
Chesham Town	20	1	2	17	19	65	4

Weird and Wonderful 1903-1904

Sheffield Wednesday were again strong as they took out Division One for the second successive season. Manchester City, Division Two winners the previous season, were only three points off Wednesday, in second place. Within three points were clubs of the calibre of Everton, Newcastle, and Aston Villa. At the bottom of the table WBA were relegated as were, Liverpool.

In the second division Bradford City who had replaced Doncaster Rovers, finished in the middle of the table. Above them the fight for promotion came down to three clubs, Preston North end, Woolwich Arsenal, and Manchester United. It was the first two that won promotion, United a point behind.

Both Bolton and Grimsby could not keep up with the pace as they attempted to jump straight back to Division. One on the first attempt. Leicester Fosse were 4 points adrift as they finished last in the Football League.

Manchester City also took their league form into the FA Cup and progressed through to the semi finals where they were to play giants Sheffield Wednesday. In the other semi Bolton were playing Derby. It was the Trotters who won through to the final by defeating the Rams 1-0, whilst Manchester City won 3-0. Crystal Palace Stadium saw 61,000 turn up to watch. 20 minutes from the start Meredith scored the only goal of the final and City had capped off a great season with the FA Cup in their possession. A remarkable feat as Bolton had played in the Cup Final way back, when "City" were founded.

In the Southern League more Hampshire dominance saw Southampton win the League from Tottenham. Both West Ham and QPR found new homes this season. Neither side were in a position to fight for the title though. Fulham were floated as a public limited company, and new boys Plymouth finished in a respectable ninth place. In the second division there were not many teams so reserve squads were allowed to play in it for the first time. Watford were runaway champions and replaced Kettering in the top flight the following season. Kettering had a dismal season gaining only 19 points.

In Scotland Third Lanark won the championship after amassing a total of 43 points, four clear of Hearts who were one point clear of third placed Celtic. In the Scottish FA Cup a great Final saw Celtic defeat Rangers 3-2.

Other European Competitions; Belgium — Union St Gilloise. Germany — none; Holland — HBS Den Haag (Cup — HFC Haarlem); Italy — Genoa (runners up Juventus); Sweden — Orgryte IS; Switzerland — FC St Gallen.

LEAGUE TABLES — Division 1

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sheffield W	34	14	3	0	34	10	6	4	7	14	18	47
Manchester C	34	10	4	3	35	19	9	2	6	36	26	44
Everton	34	13	0	4	36	12	6	5	6	23	20	43
Newcastle U	34	12	3	2	31	13	6	3	8	27	32	42
Aston Villa	34	13	1	3	41	16	4	6	7	29	32	41
Sunderland	34	12	3	2	41	15	5	2	10	22	34	39
Sheffield U	34	9	6	2	40	21	6	2	9	22	36	38
Wolves	34	10	6	1	29	23	4	2	11	15	43	36
Nottingham F	34	7	3	7	29	26	4	6	7	28	31	31
Middlesbrough	34	9	3	5	30	17	0	9	8	16	30	30
Small Heath	34	8	5	4	25	19	3	3	11	14	33	30
Bury	34	6	8	3	25	20	1	7	9	15	33	29
Notts Co	34	9	3	5	27	26	3	2	12	10	35	29
Derby Co	34	7	3	7	41	33	2	7	8	17	27	28
Blackburn R	34	7	5	5	29	23	4	1	12	19	37	28
Stoke	34	9	2	6	45	26	1	5	11	9	31	27
Liverpool	34	7	5	5	24	20	2	3	12	25	42	26
WBA	34	4	8	5	19	19	3	2	12	17	41	24

Division 2

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Preston NE	34	13	4	0	38	10	7	6	4	24	14	50
W Arsenal	34	15	2	0	67	5	6	5	6	24	17	49
Manchester U	34	14	2	1	42	14	6	6	5	23	19	48
Bristol C	34	14	2	1	53	12	4	4	9	20	29	42
Burnley	34	12	2	3	31	20	3	7	7	19	35	39
Grimsby T	34	12	5	0	39	12	2	3	12	11	37	36
Bolton W	34	10	3	4	38	11	2	7	8	21	30	34
Barnsley	34	10	5	2	25	12	1	5	11	13	45	32
Gainsboro T	34	10	2	5	34	17	4	1	12	19	43	31
Bradford C	34	8	5	4	30	25	4	2	11	15	34	31
Chesterfield	34	8	5	4	22	12	3	3	11	15	33	30
Lincoln C	34	9	4	4	25	18	2	4	11	16	40	30
Burslem PV	34	10	3	4	44	20	0	6	11	10	32	29
Burton U	34	8	6	3	33	16	3	1	13	12	45	29
Blackpool	34	8	2	7	25	27	3	3	11	15	40	27
Stockport Co	34	7	7	3	28	23	1	4	12	12	49	27
Glossop	34	7	4	6	42	25	3	2	12	15	39	26
Leicester F	34	5	8	4	26	21	1	2	14	16	61	22

U.K. SOCCER

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UK STORIES

Wright in the WRONG?

Manchester United custodian, Peter Schmeichel could face criminal charges following allegations that he subjected Arsenal striker Ian Wright to racist abuse, the Football Association revealed last week.

The news came just 24 hours after the two players were involved in an ugly confrontation in United's 2-1 English premier league win at Highbury, home ground of Arsenal.

Arsenal striker Wright is likely to face a misconduct charge from the FA for the post-match clash with the Danish international.

Wright had to be restrained as he lunged at Schmeichel at the end of an ill-tempered clash and as the players left the pitch, he had to be restrained from confronting the goalkeeper as he entered the players' tunnel.

The latest clash follows Arsenal's 1-0 defeat to United back in November, when Wright accused Schmeichel of insulting him with television footage appearing to support his claims.

Wright complained to the FA, who called in the police.

Peter Schmeichel: Could face criminal charges.

Ian Wright: Alleges racist remarks by United goalie.

PRESIDENT REGGIE KRAY

Former gangland boss Reggie Kray has been made president of an English soccer club.

Kray has donated just over $2000 from prison to an amateur team in Nottinghamshire — Ashfield 95 FC.

Speaking from his cell in Maidstone Prison, Kray says he's had a soft spot for Nottinghamshire ever since he spent a few years in Nottingham Prison.

But the Nottinghamshire Football Association wants to know why a soccer club is honouring a convicted criminal.

Kray was jailed for 30 years, along with his twin brother the late Ronnie, in 1968 for the murder of Jack McVittieand being an accessory to another.

Cadete goal boosts Celtic

Portuguese striker Jorge Cadete scored his 27th goal of the season as Celtic reduced the gap on Scottish premier division leaders Rangers to four points with a 1-0 win at Motherwell on Saturday.

Motherwell manager Alex McLeish thought Burns' side was lucky to take all three points, claiming there was a strong hint of offside about Cadete's goal.

"From where I was looking I thought it was offside but Cadete plays right on the line with the last defender and I can't be too critical of the linesman," said McLeish.

"I felt the first 15 minutes decided the match in Celtic's favour and I have told my players they can't be happy losing to Celtic or Rangers, even if it is marginal."

Burns, who kept new signing Enrico Annoni on the bench, disagreed with McLeish's offside claim.

"I thought there was a Motherwell player beyond Jorge for the goal as the last defender," said Burns. "I'm delighted to get a vital victory. We've not had many at Fir Park over the last few years and the players dug in well."

In the day's other matches, third-placed Dundee United consolidated its bid for a UEFA Cup place with a 3-2 win at Kilmarnock.

Hearts stayed fourth with a 3-2 win over bottom side Raith Rovers and Dunfermline thrashed Aberdeen 3-0.

United recover at Stamford Bridge

Manchester United stayed on top of the English premier league standings on Saturday after David Beckham scored in the 68th minute to rally the league leader to a 1-1 draw at Chelsea.

Chelsea, which defeated Manchester United earlier in the season 2-1 at Old Trafford, took a 1-0 lead in the second minute through Italian star Gianfranco Zola.

Zola and Chelsea dominated the first half and could have had at least one more. But the second half belonged to Manchester United and the draw was probably a just outcome.

Liverpool remained a point behind in second after a scoreless home draw at struggling Blackburn.

The defensive-minded Rovers salvaged a point in a match thoroughly dominated by Liverpool and striker Robbie Fowler.

Newcastle moved into third place with a 1-0 win at bottom side Middlesbrough courtesy of a strike in the eighth minute by Les Ferdinand. It was Newcastle's seventh league game without a loss.

Les Ferdinand: His successful strike condemned Boro to single goal loss.

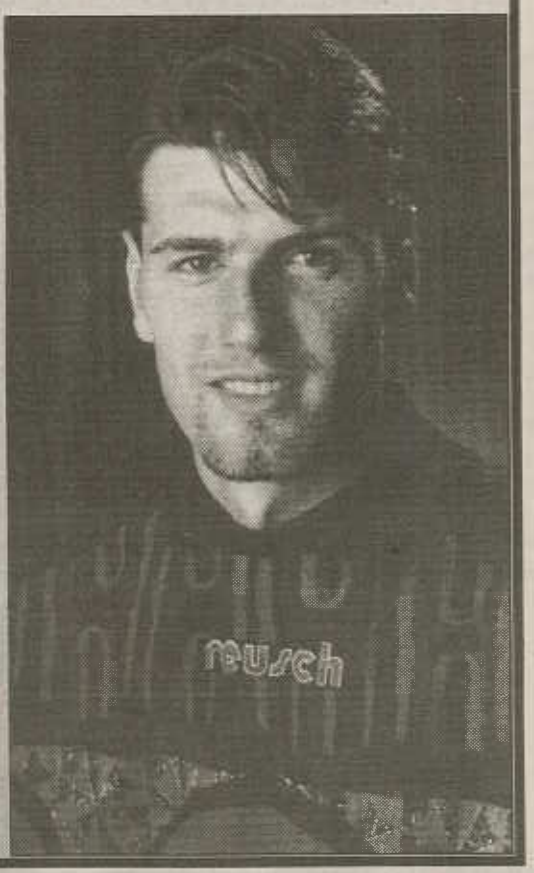
KALAC on way to Bradford

England First Division Bradford City, have just sold former Marconi keeper, Mark Schwarzer to Middlesbrough for $3 million.

Chris Kamara, manager of the north Yorkshire club, obviously likes Aussie goalies and has come back to that source for Schwarzer's replacement.

Zeljko 'Spider' Kalac will be on his way to Valley Parade, from Sydney United for an expected fee of a reported $600,000.

Since his stint with Leicester City, Kalac has played an additional six international matches and he is guaranteed a first team spot.



News in Brief

by BOB BROOKS

So called fans who threw plastic water bottles, some of which were full, at the Assistant Referee in the South Melbourne versus Adelaide City game should take note of the following story.

A fan who knocked out an Assistant Referee with a bottle of water during a French league match at Lens ten days ago, was jailed for a month last week and banned from all grounds for a year.

The 21-year-old unemployed fan threw the bottle at the official during the second half of Lens' first division match against Paris St Germain. The match was held up for 10 minutes but the linesman resumed his duties after treatment.

The French League's disciplinary commission is due to meet next week to study the incident and could ban Lens' Bollaert ground for one or more matches.

Good to see that the USA Women's team has arrived for their three match international series with the Australians. The Olympic Champions have brought nine of their Gold Medalists 'Down Under'. Maybe the heat and humidity will even the contest up a little more.

The three games are in Melbourne at Bob Jane Stadium this Friday before the Ericsson Cup match between the Lakers and Wollongong City. Then it's out to country NSW on Sunday at Carrington Park, Bathurst for the middle game. The final match of the series takes place on Wednesday of next week at Bruce Stadium, Canberra.

None of the team from ABSW in Marrickville will be able to see the games due to work commitments, however that doesn't stop us wishing the Matildas the very best of luck!

The USA is in fact the host for the next Women's World Cup in 1999.

Norway is the defending champions, while the USA won in 1991.

At the Olympics last year the Women's final was played before more than 78,000 spectators.

The skills displayed and the effort expended is a tribute to the Women's game which now has several professional leagues around the world.

It's amazing when the World Game is making some much progress in Australia, violence rears its ugly head.

The throwing of any missiles is sheer lunacy. Those apparent and so called 'South Melbourne supporters' who aimed drink bottles at an Assistant Referee at Lakers Stadium need the full weight of the law brought down on them. One wonders if these same irresponsible louts were involved in the stoning of the Adelaide City bus.

Anglo Costanzo: Suffered horrific eye injury on team bus but his sight is okay

Thank goodness that Angelo Costanzo has retained the sight in his damaged eye. Many years ago while attending my school's Christmas concert, a boy two places from me got a splinter of glass from a shattering soda syphon in his eye. Unfortunately he lost his vision at the age of 12. This happened in all innocence. The incident in Melbourne was a deliberate act of vandalism.

Understand that the success of Perth Glory has prompted the rugby league people to look at withdrawing the Murdoch inspired team and putting it in Melbourne.

The problem with league in Perth is that there really isn't a viable local competition. There are few if any players and no real interest. Association Football on the other hand has been played in WA for over one hundred years. There was apparently a latent demand for a top line team And the Glory have captured the uncommitted.

Go The Glory!

Topper the sports goods company that originates from Argentina, have made a very smart business decision in moving in as major sponsor of the Topper Bill Turner Cup.

Here they will have exposure to over 700 schools in FNQ, CQ, SQ (all parts of Queensland, work them out), NSW in every corner of the most populous State, the nation's capital, Canberra, and northern Victoria.

Suddenly their name will be known to hundreds of school children. Whole teams of Under 15s will be using their balls, hearing their name, seeing it in print and hopefully in some cases wearing Topper uniforms.

Reckon there must be a number of very envious companies.

You may wonder where we get all our pictures. From Perth, Richard Kreider clicks away. In Brisbane, Paul Harley shoots film. Adelaide has Johnny Kamma firing away. While in Sydney our regular contributor is Jorge Gonzalez.

Additionally we have an extensive library of photographs collected over the years, including a number of historical ones of players such as Stanley Matthews.

Occasionally John Economos points his modest camera and we finish up with some unique shots.

The photographs of Women's games are supplied by Janene Mar, our 'Women's Writes' columnist.

Congratulations to the Australian Women's Soccer Association on the production of some stunning promotional material.

One A3 sized poster is simplicity itself but visually eye catching and exciting. It shows a female player volleying the ball. She has her right leg at full stretch.

A representation of the curvature of the earth is shown with the slogan 'pushing the limits'. Brilliant!

Then there are series of postcard size portrayals of a number of Australian internationals. The one we have shows Kristyn Swaffer enhanced with some terrific graphics taken from a computer system.

The reader is urged to 'get off the planet'. Kristyn is shown horizontal to the ground, over a metre high, heading a ball.

The reverse has an easily readable profile of the same Australian international.

Soccer Australia have informed us that UTS Olympic have been awarded a 3-0 win and the three points, for the the game not played against Collingwood.

Compensation claimed by UTS Olympic for loss of revenue has been referred to a tribunal.

Games against the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on Wednesday March 12 to be played in Skopje, and Saturday April 12 in Budapest with Hungary, have been confirmed.

For those interested fans the Australian team will train under Terry Venables with assistance primarily from Raul Blanco. Les Schenflug will also be in London with the team.

The training sessions will be held at the Barclays Bank Sports Club, Park View Road, Ealing, West London.

Alex Kuzmanovic of South Melbourne faces a Disciplinary Tribunal tonight. He has been cited to appear under Law 13, Violent Conduct, during the South versus Adelaide City game. He is serving an automatic two match suspension for the send off.

A second tribunal has been set for this Thursday when the same player faces charges of dissent and incitement.

Heard a cute story concerning a five year old who has just started his education.

The little boy, who attends a school in Sydney's greater west, was asked by his teacher to think of a word. Then to learn how to spell and write it. It was his word.

It's pleasing to report that Andre, the boy concerned, chose the word SOCCER. Now that's really good news. After all there's only one word for the World Game which is a neat contrast to the other codes.

Bingham shifts his focus

By BOB BROOKS

The appointment of Regional Directors of Coaching in our great game has been a welcome development.

In Queensland, based at Toowoomba on the eastern edge of the Darling Downs, is Harry Bingham. The name will be familiar to many in the Soccer fraternity from his time as coach of, the then, Morwell Falcons.

Bingham has responsibility for South West Queensland an area of outstanding natural beauty and rich agricultural land. However Bingham is interested in the raising of skills among the Soccer playing juniors rather than a great admirer of the countryside.

Based in Toowoomba he has developed a close affinity with the University of Southern Queensland. In association with USQ, Bingham has taken the first steps to put in place an Institute of Sport.

The University will provide their first class sporting facilities, sports psychologists, physiologists and accommodation when needed. Bingham will supply his undoubted coaching ability.

Coincidentally the still heavily accented former Scotsman is studying for a Graduate Diploma in Sports Coaching/Sciences at USQ. As Bingham says, "I attended Uni in Scotland for two years but was signed up on a contract to play professional football." He abandoned his degree studies, something he has always secretly regretted.

His club Greenock Morton was a part-time outfit and Bingham arranged for a so called 'late' apprenticeship as a Plumber in the dockyards on the River Clyde.

He arrived in Australia to play with Morwell who then were in the Victorian Soccer Federation but building and growing. His main source of income was through his job in the massive power stations of the Latrobe Valley.

For the last three years Soccer has provided his life, full time. First he was coach of Morwell Falcons in the NSL then since 1996 in his current job.

Two academics from USQ have proposed an item for the inaugural international conference called 'Elite Level Sport – a Compromise or Sacrifice' to be held in Canberra from August 7 this year. Harry Bingham's name is on the paper.

Following is their outline submitted for consideration. If they are chosen then they will be one of the major presenters at the conference.

ATHLETE CENTRED — NEEDS BASED PROGRAMS

Critics argue that current academy and institute sport services programs are not fulfilling their promised expectations of producing a large quantity of high quality athletes.

These programs are athlete centered and needs based, ie. they are directed towards the athlete's physical development. It is argued however that the psychological and lifestyle needs of these athletes are not being sufficiently met. This presentation outlines an athlete management program developed for a regional sports academy where the athlete is the focal point of any physical and psychological development.

The program aims to empower athletes with skills that allow them to take responsibility for their own overall athletic career. What distinguishes this approach from others is that empowerment is seen as a process where the coach, athlete and related support personnel enter into an integrated relationship. Thus it has a preventive orientation rather than a crisis driven or 'as needs arise' approach.

Based upon a developmental model of counselling, this presentation considers high performing athletes as gifted individuals (Lamont-Mills, 1996). That is, the athlete is considered to not only have unique physical needs but also unique psychological, developmental, emotional and social needs that set them apart from less gifted individuals.

From this perspective, the GAME* (Gifted Athlete Management and Education*) program is introduced as an alternative to current institute and academy practices. The overriding advantage of this type of approach is that the athlete, coach, and athletic services manager, develop a program that is individual to not only the athlete's physical needs but also emotional, developmental, psychological, social and educational needs.

It is suggested that this integrative and holistic approach has the potential to positively affect athlete development, retention rates and performance levels.

LAMONT-MILLS, A., CHRISTENSEN, S (Department of Psychology, University of Southern Queensland) & BINGHAM, H. (South West Regional Soccer Coaching Director).

Harry Bingham: Former player with Morwell now in the game full time as a coach.

PERTH GLORY *salute the Hill*